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# INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

One of the most innocent and exquisite pleasures of this life is that of hearing from an absent friend. When we are suddenly reminded by a letter of one who is dear to us, and see our name in the well-known hand on the direction, a flash of delight pervades the whole frame; the heart beats with expectation while the seal is being broken, and as the sheet is unfolded, goes forth in full benevolence to meet the heart of the writer in the perusal of its contents. An epistolary correspondence between intimate and endeared connexions, is a spiritual communion, in which minds alone seem to mingle, and, unembarrassed by the bodily presence, converse with a freedom, a fervour, and an eloquence, rarely excited, and perhaps never more felicitously indulged, in personal intercourse.—Hence the chief charm of a letter, if the term may be so applied, is its *individuality*, as a message from one whom we love or esteem, according to the degree of kin or congeniality between us, sent expressly on an errand of kindness to ourselves.

The consciousness that it was written to and for him, gives the receiver a paramount interest in its existence, as well as in its disclosures. To him, therefore, it becomes an object of affection, and none but himself, however some others may sympathize with the feelings, can enter into it with the same degree of ineffable emotion;—that indeed is "a joy with which a stranger intermeddleth not."

It follows, that by far the greater proportion of letters which are most welcomed and valued by those to whom they are addressed, would be read with comparative indifference by all beside; for the familiar epistles of very few, and that only from the peculiar circumstances of the parties, can be so lively, touching, and original, as to afford universal entertainment or instruction. Of late years, it has become common to publish, rather voluminously, the private correspondence of persons distinguished in their day and in their circle, though soon to be distinguished no longer amidst the crowds that are following,

"Of names illustrious, born to be forgot."

In most of these instances, a tithe would have been more creditable to the author, and more acceptable to the public, than the whole harvest "of thoughts," which might well have been left in the quiet and beneficent course of nature to "perish" with those who conceived them, and those to whom

they were uttered at the time, in the place and on the occasion that called them forth, and made them precious. Of very few, then, among the few, whose relics of this kind are worth preserving, all that can be rescued from oblivion is permanently valuable; for, in the majority of cases, it is principally so because of its rarity; that which does remain being so little in comparison with what is irrecoverably lost: for example, the single letter of the younger Cato to Cicero, admirable and characteristic as it is of that extraordinary man. Even of the mightiest and most gifted of mankind, the heroes or the writers of history and poetry, the private letters of not more than one or two in an age would bear publication in multitude and bulk, like Cowper's, any more than their sayings would bear repetition, without satiety through excess, like Johnson's.

Several British authors have been so indiscreet as to favour the world with their own confidential letters; but probably no one has advanced his reputation by the breach of faith which such a betrayal (from vain or mercenary motives) of personal and family concerns must involve. The case is widely different, when literary adepts have been in the practice of writing on set subjects to their correspondents, with the secret or avowed purpose of benefiting the world by their epistolary lucubrations,—which might as well have been directed to

one as to another of their acquaintance, or indeed to nobody, except every body; for the latter of whom, they are in fact intended. Such compositions (many of them excellent in their kind) must therefore be regarded as regular treatises, not less skilfully devised and elaborately executed than the most stately of their literary works

In letter writing when the heart is earnestly engaged, the first thoughts in the first words are usually best; for it is thoughts, not words, that are to be communicated; and meaning, not manner, which is mainly to be aimed at. The ideas that rise, and thicken as they rise, in a mind full and overflowing with its subject, voluntarily embody themselves in language the most easy and appropriate; yet are they so delicate and evanescent, that they soon lose their character and distinctness, blend with each other, and from being strikingly simple in succession, become inextricably complex in association, on account of their multiplicity and affinity. The thoughts that occur in letter-writing will not stay to be questioned; they must be taken at their word, or instantly dismissed. They are like odours from "a bank of violets;"—a breath—and away ' He that would revel on the fragrance by scenting it hard and long, will feel that its deliciousness has eluded him; he may taste it again and again for a moment, but he might as well attempt to catch the rainbow, and hold it, as longer

to inhale and detain the subtle and volatile sweetness. He who once hesitates amidst the flow of fresh feelings and their spontaneous expression, becomes unawares bewildered; and must either resolutely disengage himself by darting right forward through the throng of materials, to recover the freedom of his pen, or he must patiently select, arrange, and array them, as in a premeditated exercise of his mind on a given theme.

As the sweetest sensation communicable by a letter can only be once enjoyed, and that in perfection by him alone to whom it was addressed,—like a pleasure of hope suddenly realized, though it may be often renewed with less exalting, but more enduring delight as a pleasure of memory,—so the gratification which may be experienced by strangers who peruse epistolary memorials of the distant or the dead, and are of course but partially interested in their contents, must be peculiar in its kind, and greatly different from that of the writers and receivers. To the latter every thing included is important; the common-place passages, topics, and allusions, often being most so, because these come home to their bosoms and business; their hopes and their happiness; their possessions, prospects, relationships; all that they are, and all that they hold in connexion with their kindred, their friends, and their neighbours; and at the same time, being more or less implicated with the ordinary course of things,

—especially those things that come to all men, in one form or another. But by strangers, the value of letters never designed for themselves, is estimated according to the knowledge, which, from other sources than personal acquaintanceship they have acquired of the parties, as distinguished in some way above the multitude among whom they lived; which knowledge has awakened the very natural and laudable desire to learn more about them individually than can be obtained from report, tradition or record, concerning their deeds or their studies, as those may have been performed, or these matured for public use, if not for the public good. What is real from the lips, the pens, or the hearts of the illustrious of the past of all ages, is incomparably more attractive and affective than all that can be put into their mouths in tragedy, romance, or even history, when history acts the part of tragedy, or utters the language of romance. The speeches, the brief, blunt speeches of generals to their armies, in ancient times, if they could have been transmitted to posterity, which would have been far better than the eloquent harangues which their chroniclers have made for them. No man can think another man's thoughts, except through that man's own words, much less express them as he himself would have done, from general and abstract knowledge, necessarily imperfect, of what they were, according to rumour or conjecture. How

is it that the minutest incidents related by an eye and ear witness, especially concerning his own experience, his labors, privations, and sufferings, on foreign travel, in sickness, perils, difficulties of any kind, among barbarians, like the cannibals of New Zealand, or semi-civilized neutrals, like the Hindoos—how comes it that these are much more impressive and soul-stirring to his audience, on missionary occasions, for example, from his own mouth, by the living voice, ranging through all its modulations, aided by his animated looks, and their momentary changes; his manner, emphasis, action, and even his dialect, being each personal, peculiar, and according with the influence of the subject on himself—how comes it that the minutest incidents thus told are much more affecting and impressive upon his auditors than the finished, comprehensive, and symmetrical details of greater matters, when read from an official report, or delivered, however vividly and glowingly, by a professional speaker, who may have derived them from hearsay or digested them from original documents? The reason is a plain one:—the first is reality, the second is representation—in its relative effect upon the hearer or the reader. The bodily presence of the agent makes more difference than can be easily explained; but every one has felt it, and it needs no explanation.

Sir Joshua Reynolds has said, that "all the atti-

tudes of children are graceful," and it may be added, that all the utterances of children are natural; yet in both cases this is true only when they move from the impulse of pure feeling, and speak words which they well understand, and mean to be understood by their playmates, without the consciousness of being observed by their elders. But the moment a child becomes aware that an admiring or a censorious eye is upon its actions, or that its pretty babble, beautifully broken and always right accented, is listened to with applause, as something clever from one so small, the grace and simplicity both of motion and speech are gone, and it begins to act a part, which however inartificial, because it knows no art, that thenceforward it will need no teacher but itself to go on to perfection. This, of course, refers to children who are beyond mere infancy. Now, in like manner, as all the attitudes of children are graceful and all their utterances natural,—so, in after life, though habit, our second nature, may, in some things, have superseded the first, yet this will resume the ascendancy whenever we act, speak, think, or feel for ourselves, as though there were no witness and would be no censor of our proceedings. When, therefore, without either restraint or compulsion, we communicate with friends whom we love as ourselves, we relapse imperceptibly into unsophisticated childhood, every thing is done with the ease, simplicity, and freedom

that become the occasion. Why are the letters of women, for the most part, more frank and agreeable than those of men? Because they present the first fruits of their thoughts in the first forms of language that occur in the conception of them. Their opinions are as naturally expressed on paper as their genuine features are represented in their mirrors, when they snatch a passing look to see themselves just as they are,—that is just as they ought to be,—before they join the family dinner-table or sit down in the ring at the fireside:—not as they are compelled to appear among the live statues (as formal, as marble, and as cold) of visiting acquaintance in a set party; or to move in the whirl of that limbo of vanity, a ball-room, amidst the more vivacious automata, that seem to have every thing belonging to humanity about them except souls. The better sex where they give their confidence at all give it heartily. Hence they are far more ingenuous, and therefore more delightful correspondents than most of those who call themselves the lords of creation, but who are never more so than when they condescend to become women and children in letter writing; that is, when they give expression to their feelings with the innocent hilarity of the one and the full flow of soul and affection of the other.

The beauty then and excellence of letters consists in their being really mirrors of the writers' minds, showing them more as they are than they

can be seen through any other medium accessible to those who are not of their kindred or near connexions.

Every incident about a letter has something connected with the past, the future, the unseen, the unknown; things the most simple and natural, that touch the tenderest, the sweetest sympathies of our common souls; and things the most awful, mysterious, and sublime, which awaken "the thoughts that travel through eternity," the "feelings that lie too deep for tears." To a letter belong,—taking it under the most usual circumstances which give birth of documents of this kind,—a name, a place, an occasion, and a date.—What is the name? That by which an insulated individual, (the writer) was known on earth from all his contemporaries; and that by which (speaking after the manner of men) he will be summoned to appear at the bar of God, in the day of judgment, to give an account of the deeds done in the body.—What is the place? The locality where he dwelt for a season, where generations had died before, and generations will live after him to the end of time.—What is the occasion? One of those daily occurrences, the things that happen to all; of which in the bulk we may think almost nothing, but which, to each in turn, when the particular application falls upon himself, his family, his friends, his countrymen, or any class of persons to whom he is affectionately allied or

generously attached, may be of more pressing importance while it lasts than any thing else in the world.—What is the date? A visible memorial of one of the days of the years of man on the earth, perhaps the only existing register of that particular day, which came in its course, and went, when its errand was accomplished, whither all the days, and years, and ages of time depart in peace, to await the arrival of that day when its account must be given before the tribunal of the Judge of quick and dead. The date of such an undistinguished day is also a visible memorial of all that happened within the course of its twenty-four hours to every living man, including whatever he did, or said, or thought, or felt, or suffered. It is more than this: it is a memorial of all that was enjoyed in heaven, endured in hell, or transacted throughout the whole universe of God, in his providence, and in his grace, by himself or by his creatures, and it is the memorial of a day, which has left upon every day that has succeeded, or shall follow it to the end, eternal influences, which, however unappreciably small or great to finite minds, are yet distinctly estimated by Him to whom all things are known in their beginnings, connexions, and issues.

We must, howe er, descend from the merely literary considerations of the subject to its daily details and practical bearings.

Now it is not difficult to write an amusing letter,

a pleasant letter, or even what in common parlance is styled a well-expressed letter. It is not very difficult to write a clever letter, though it is highly disagreeable to receive one of these laboured compositions. But it is very difficult to write a really good letter, and it is in this that the female letter-writers of our own day often fail. In order to accomplish it, it is necessary to consider a subject fully, and then to see how it can be expressed most briefly and most clearly, not spending many words upon a few ideas, but endeavouring to clothe the ideas which are to be expressed in as few words as possible. The language should be simple and natural, and, generally speaking, the words which first offer themselves are the best. The words should be suited to the thoughts, the dress should fit tightly, and not hang round the ideas like a lady's loose gown.

Every well-informed person should be capable of writing a plain, distinct letter, clearly expressed, distinctly written, correctly spelt, and accurately punctuated; a letter on which, in short, no censure need be passed. There are two chief points to be considered; the French will supply us with terms, for they call them, 'le fonds et la forme" The former, it is evident, must depend on individual capacity and power; but for any person of ordinary education to err in the latter respect is inexcusable. The Spectator, in his day, tells us that

he was in the habit of receiving epistolary communications both from ladies and gentlemen, and that the letters of the ladies were, in the aggregate, decidedly the better, both as it regarded phraseology and orthography. These are by-gone days. As far as a limited individual experience goes, the point most neglected by our present lady letter-writers is punctuation. Stops were introduced into reading and writing in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and a very great improvement it was considered, and a great aid towards understanding the meaning of an author; but certainly in the present time these useful little marks are by no means in general use among the female division of society. The mistakes which arise from this source are often puzzling, not unfrequently ludicrous.

As letters are written on all subjects, in all states of mind, they cannot be properly reduced to any settled rules. The qualities of epistolatory writing most frequently required are ease and simplicity.

Letters should be written with strict conformity to nature, because that alone can make any composition beautiful or just. But it is natural to depart from familiarity of language upon occasions not familiar.

Epistolatory writing possesses a kind of middle place between the serious and amusing species of composition. It appears at first view to extend into a very wide field, for there is no subject, whatever,

on which we may not convey our thoughts to the public in the form of a letter.

It becomes a distinct species of composition when it is of the easy and familiar kind; when it is a conversation carried on upon paper between friends at a distance.

The first and fundamental object is to be natural and simple, for a stiff and laboured manner is as bad in a letter as it is in conversation. This, however, does not banish sprightliness and wit. These are graceful in letters just as they are in conversation, when they flow easily, and without being studied; when employed so as to season, not to cloy.

A person who, either in conversation or in letters, affects to shine and sparkle always will not please long: the style of letters should not be too highly polished. It ought to be neat and correct. All nicety about words betrays study, which should be avoided.

The best letters are generally such as have been written with the greatest facility. What the heart or the imagination dictates, always flows readily. It ought at the same time to be remembered that the ease and simplicity recommended in epistolatory correspondence are not to be understood as permitting carelessness.

In writing to the most intimate friend a certain degree of attention both to the subject and style is

necessary and becoming. It is what we owe both to ourselves and to our friend. A slovenly and negligent manner of writing is a mark of want of respect. An imprudent expression in conversation may be forgotten and pass away, but we should remember, when we take the pen in hand, that "what is written remains."

The preceding observations are applicable to the epistolatory style in general. A few distinct remarks, however, are requisite, with regard to the various subjects upon which we correspond, and the relative situation of our correspondent.

We must not confound the simple and the familiar style; the terms are far from being synonymous: we may address in a simple style persons in the most elevated situations of life, but certainly it would show a great want of respect, and consequently of prudence, to address persons so much above us in the same language that we should employ when addressing our equals.

Persons of distinction are very jealous (and justly so) of the respect to which their birth, fortune, or exalted station entitles them.

Be very careful how you employ (even in the familiar style) puns, bon-mots, or other jests; they are very dangerous weapons in the most skilful hands, and much more so to persons who (as is too frequently the case) employ them indiscrimi-

nately. "*Lose your joke rather than hazard the loss of your friend.*"

With respect to commercial letters they should be as clear and concise as possible. Brevity and neatness are the two principal requisites. Say just what is necessary and no more. Avoid all ambiguity, as it might cause great loss of time, if nothing more serious.

Before you sit down to write a letter on any subject, think well what you intend to say, for if you have to seek the matter as you write, 'tis ten to one but your style will be stiff and inelegant.

If you have to answer a letter of importance give the subject very mature consideration.

When writing to a superior avoid abbreviations, such, for example, as I've, I'd, can't, etc., etc. In the same case avoid postscripts, they are too familiar.

A very general fault is that of writing long letters; say all that you have to say; but say it in as few words as possible. This rule may be strictly attended to without danger of becoming obscure, as it is impossible to be, at the same time, very brief and very explicit.

A long letter filled with studied terms, and a short one, in which every thing needful is said, may be compared to the two gentlemen who asked a lady for a pinch of snuff. The one addressed her in the following flowery words, "Madam, permit me to

insert the digits of my fingers into your oderiferous repository, that by taking from thence some grains of the pulverized atoms, I may be enabled to excite an agreeable titillation in my olfactory nerves." While the lady was endeavouring to divine his meaning, the other gentleman said, "Madam, will you favor me with a pinch of snuff?" He was accommodated before the other was understood.

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## RULES IN ETIQUETTE

When you write a letter to a friend contractions in the name of the place you write from, in the name of the month, or in the concluding sentence, as, Yours, &c.," are perhaps allowable; but when you write a letter to a person with whom you are not on familiar terms of intimacy, and who ranks higher than yourself in society, you must not use contractions. Every word must be written fairly out, and you must not close up the epistle by anything like a hurried expression of courtesy. The same rule applies to the backing of a letter. When you write to a Commodore do not direct the letter with the contraction "*Com.*," write the word "*Commodore*" in full. Never use wafers for letters to persons who are any way above you in rank; indeed, nobody in good society now uses wafers except on very

ordinary occasions, or in matters of business. In folding letters do not try to make the doubling intricate or fantastic, which is a sign of a vulgar mind; just use simple folding. It is also reckoned improper to say "in haste" at the conclusion of letters. Never make use of paper gilt on the edges, whether in writing to high or low, for it is altogether unfashionable and antiquated, and is in reality of no use.

The date of a letter is usually placed at the top; but it is equally allowable to place it at the bottom. Letters of business should be dated at the top for convenience noting the date on the back before placing on file. The name of the person addressed is frequently placed at the top of the letter over the word "Sir." In addressing a person with whom you are not well acquainted it is bad taste to say, "*Dear Sir.*" It is more respectful to say "Sir." "Respected Sir," is obsolete.

In billets of invitation and other ceremonious communications the third person should be employed. In this case the word "Sir" is not placed at the top. After commencing a billet in this style it is ridiculous to employ the pronoun of the first person when speaking of yourself or that of the second person when speaking of your correspondent.

Letters of introduction are never to be sealed. Such a proceeding is a gross breach of etiquette.

# PART I.

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# FAMILY LETTERS.

## FAMILY LETTERS.

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*From a gentleman at Boston to his brother at New York.*

Boston, January 6, 1843.

Dear Henry:

At the request of your father, I write to complain of your long silence. It is now three weeks since we heard from you, but I assure you that we have very recently heard of you, and not at all to your credit, or our satisfaction.

A friend of ours has just arrived from New-York, who has had several opportunities of observing your conduct, and after an interview with him, your father requested me to write immediately, and to say that he shall expect you home without delay.

I am sorry, my dear brother, to be under the necessity of writing thus to you, but you know our kind father's anxiety for your welfare, and you will, I am sure, obey this summons.

Believe me ever, your affectionate brother,

W. Brown.

P. S.—Have the goodness to bring with you a few of the newest and most interesting publications.

*Answer to the letter from a gentleman at Boston to his brother in New-York.*

New-York, January 18th, 1842.

My dear William,

Yours of the 6th instant gives me the greatest uneasiness, and I hasten to answer it, in order to convince you how unjustly you accuse me. I have been excessively ill during the last fortnight, and really unable to write. That circumstance, I hope, will account satisfactorily for my long silence.

With respect to the information you have received concerning my conduct, I have the satisfaction of knowing that I shall soon be able to convince you, and my dear father, that it is a vile calumny. I have no doubt but that the calumniator is Mr. B. who requested me to lend him some money, and who appeared much offended on my refusing.

I am now, my dear brother, preparing for my departure, that I may convince my father how ready I am to comply with his wishes.

Adieu, dear William, believe me for ever,

Your affectionate brother,

H. Brown.

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*From a son to his father, expressing his satisfaction with his employ.*

Saturday, October 8th.

Dear Father,

I have the pleasure to inform you that I am very

much pleased with my situation. My master and mistress are extremely kind to me; in fact, I am treated as one of the family. I assure you, my dear father, I will do all in my power to merit their confidence and your love. I hope my dear mother and sisters are well. Pray, give my love to them; and believe me ever,

Your dutiful son.

---

*From a father, to a son, on his negligence in his affairs.*

Dear James,

You cannot imagine what a concern your carelessness and indifferent management of your affairs give me. Ramissness is inexcusable in all men, but in none so much as in a man of business, the soul of which is industry, diligence, and punctuality.

Let me beg of you to shake off the idle habits you have contracted, quit unprofitable company, and unseasonable recreations, and apply to your counting-house with diligence. It may not yet be too late to retrieve your affairs. Inspect, therefore, your gains, and cast up what proportion they bear to your expenses; and then see which of the latter you can, and which you cannot contract. Consider, that when once a man suffers himself to go backward in the world, it must be an uncommon spirit

of industry that retrieves him, and puts him forward again.

Reflect, I beseech you, before it be too late, upon the inconveniences which an impoverished trader is put to, for the remainder of his life; which, too, may happen to be the prime part of it; the indignities he is likely to suffer from those whose money he has unthinkingly squandered; the contempt he will meet with from all, not excepting the idle companions of his folly; the injustice he does his family, in depriving his children, not only of the power of raising themselves, but of living tolerably; and how, on the contrary from being born to a credible expectation, he sinks them into the lowest class of mankind, and exposes them to most dangerous temptations. What has not such a father to answer for? and all this for the sake of indulging himself in an idle, a careless, a thoughtless habit, that cannot afford the least satisfaction, beyond the present hour, if in that; and which must be attended with deep remorse, when he comes to reflect. Think seriously of these things, and in time resolve on such a course as may bring credit to yourself, justice to all you deal with, peace and pleasure to your mind, comfort to your family; and which will at the same time give the highest satisfaction to your careful and loving father.

*The son's grateful answer*

Honored Sir,

I return you my sincere thanks for your seasonable reproof and advice. I have indeed too much indulged myself in an idle, careless, habit, and had already begun to feel the evil consequences of it, when I received your letter, in the insults of a creditor or two, from whom I expected kinder treatment. But indeed they wanted but their own, so I could only blame myself, who had brought their rough usage upon me. Your letter came so seasonably upon this, that I hope it will not want the desired effect, and as, I thank God, it is not yet too late, I am resolved to take another course with myself and my affairs, that I may avoid the ill consequences you so judiciously forewarn me of, and give to my family and friends the pleasure they so well deserve at my hands; and particularly that satisfaction to so good a father, which is owing to him by his most dutiful son.

---

*An Uncle in answer to a Nephew's complaining of hardships in his apprenticeship.*

Dear Nephew,

I am sorry you should have any misunderstanding with your master: I have a good opinion of him, and am unwilling to entertain a bad one of you.

It is so much a master's interest to use his apprentices well, that I am inclinable to think that when they are badly used, it is oftener the effect of provocation than of choice. Wherefore, before I give myself the trouble of interposing in your behalf, I desire you will strictly inquire of yourself, whether you have not, by some misconduct or other, provoked that alteration in your master's behaviour of which you so much complain. If after having diligently complied with this request, you assure me that you are not sensible of having given cause of disgust on your side, I will readily use my endeavours to reconcile you to your master, or procure you another. But if you find yourself blamable, it will be better for you to remove, by your own amendment, the occasion of your master's displeasure, than to have me, or any other friend, offer to plead your excuse, where you know it would be unjust to defend you. If this should be your case, all your friends together could promise your better behaviour, indeed; but as the performance must even then be your own, it will add much more to your character, to pass through your whole term without any interposition between you. Weigh what I have here said; and remember that your future welfare depends greatly on your present behaviour.

I am your loving kinsman.

*From a young man who had eloped from his apprenticeship, to his father, desiring him to intercede with his master to take him again into his service.*

Honoured Sir,

With shame, arising from a consciousness of guilt, I have presumed to write to you at this time. I doubt not but you have heard of the irregularities in my conduct, which at last proceeded so far as to induce me to desert the service of the best of masters. Filled with the deepest contrition, and sensible of my folly and ingratitude, I know not of a more powerful advocate to intercede for me, than my honoured, though justly offended parent. It was the allurements of vicious company, that first tempted me to forsake the paths of virtue, and neglect my duty in a family where I was treated with the greatest tenderness. Fully sensible of my fault, I am willing to make every reparation in my power, but I know not of any other, than by acting diametrically opposite to my former conduct. Let me entreat you to intercede with my worthy master to take me again into his service, and my whole future life shall be one continued act of gratitude.

I am, Sir, your affectionate, though undutiful son.

---

*The Father's answer.*

My dear child,

If you ever live to be a father, you will know

what I feel for you on the present occasion. Tenderness as a parent, resentment on account of ingratitude—a real concern for your future happiness, and respect for the worthy man whose service you deserted, all conspire together to agitate my mind to different purposes; but paternal affection becomes predominant, and I am obliged to act as your friend, although I am afraid you have considered me as your enemy. I have written to your master, and just now received his answer, copies of which I have sent enclosed. Your master is willing again to receive you into his service, and I hope your behaviour will be correspondent to so much lenity.

I am your affectionate father.

[LETTER.]

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*The Father's letter to the Master.*

My worthy Friend,

I have often written to you with pleasure, but alas! I am constrained at present to address myself to you on a subject I little expected. I have just now received a letter from my son, by whom I am informed, that he has left your service, through the instigation of evil company: His letter contains a penitential acknowledgment of his offence, together with a declaration of his resolution to act consistently with his duty for the future. He has

begged of me to intercede with you in his behalf, and I know your humanity will excuse parental affection. If you will again receive the unhappy youth into your family, I have great reason to hope that his conduct will be equal to his promises; and it will confer a lasting obligation on an afflicted parent, and oblige,

Your sincere well-wisher.

---

*From a brother to a sister in the country, upbraiding her for being negligent in writing.*

My dear sister,

I write to you to acquaint you how unkindly we all take it here, that you do not write oftener to us, in relation to your health, diversions, and employments in the country. You cannot be insensible how much you are beloved by us all; judge then if you do well to omit giving us the satisfaction absence affords to true friends, which is, often to hear from one another. My mother is highly offended with you, and says you are a very idle girl; my aunt is of the same opinion, and I would fain, like a loving brother, excuse you if I could. Pray, for the future, take care to deserve a better character, and by writing soon, and often, put it in my power to say what a good sister I have: For you shall always find me

Your most affectionate brother

*From the daughter to the mother, in excuse for her neglect.*

Honored Madam,

I am ashamed I waited to be reminded of my duty by my brother's kind letter. I will offer no excuse for myself, for not writing oftener, though I have been strangely taken up by the kindness and favour of your good friends here, particularly my aunt Windus: For well do I know that my duty to my honoured mother ought to take place of all other considerations. All I beg therefore is, that you will be so good as to forgive me, on promise of amendment, and to procure forgiveness also of my aunt Rutledge, and all friends. Believe me, madam, when I say that no diversions here or elsewhere shall make me forget the duty I owe to so good a mother, and such kind relations; and that I shall ever be

Your gratefully dutiful daughter.

My aunt and cousins desire their kind love to you, and due respects to all friends

---

*From a daughter to her father, pleading for her sister, who had married without his consent.*

Honoured Sir,

The kind indulgence you have always shown to your children, makes me presume to become an advocate for my sister, though not for her fault. She

is very sensible of that, and sorry she has offended you; but has great hopes that Mr. Robinson will prove such a careful and loving husband to her, as may atone for his past wildness, and engage your forgiveness: For all your children are sensible of your paternal kindness, and that you wish their good more for their sakes, than your own.

This makes it the more wicked to offend so good a father: But, dear sir, be pleased to consider, that it now cannot be helped, and that she may be made by your displeasure very miserable in her own choice; and as his faults are owing to the inconsideration of youth, or otherwise it would not have been a very discreditable match—had it had your approbation. I could humbly hope, for my poor sister's sake, that you will be pleased rather to encourage his present good resolutions by your kind favour, than to make him despair of a reconciliation, and so perhaps treat her with a negligence, which hitherto she is not apprehensive of: For he is really very fond of her, and I hope will continue so. Yet is she dejected for her fault to you, and wishes, yet dreads, to have your leave to throw herself at your feet, to beg your forgiveness and blessing, which would make the poor dear offender quite happy.

Pardon, sir, my interposing in her favour, in which my husband also joins. She is my sister. She is your daughter, though she has not done so

worthily as I wish, to become that character. Be pleased, sir, to forgive her, however; and also forgive me, pleading for her; who am

Your ever dutiful daughter.

---

*The Father's answer.*

My dear Nanny,

You must believe that your sister's unadvised marriage, which she must know would be disagreeable to me, gives me no small concern; and yet, I will assure you that it arises more from my affection for her, than any other consideration. In her education, I took all the pains and care my circumtances would admit, and often flattered myself with the hope, that the happy fruits of it would be made to appear in her prudent conduct. What she has now done is not vicious, but indiscreet, for, you must remember, that I have often declared in her hearing, that the wild assertion of a rake making a good husband, was the most dangerous opinion a woman could imbibe.

I will not, however, in pity to her, point out the many ills I am afraid will attend her rashness, because it is done, and cannot be helped; but wish she may be happier than I ever saw a woman who leaped so fatal a precipice.

Her husband has this morning been with me for

her fortune, and it was with much temper I told him, that as all she could hope for was wholly at my disposal, I should disburse it in such a manner as I thought would most contribute to her advantage; and that, as he was a stranger to me, I should choose to know how he deserved it, before he had the power over what I intended for her. He bit his lip, and with a hasty step was my humble servant.

Tell the rash girl, that I would not have her to be afflicted at this behaviour in me; for I know it will contribute to her advantage one way or other; if he married her for her own sake, she will find no alteration of behaviour from this disappointment; but if he married only for her money, she will soon be glad to find it in my possession rather than his.

Your intercession in her behalf is very sisterly: And you see I have not the resentment she might expect. But would to God she had acted with your prudence! for her own sake I wish it. I am

Your loving Father.

---

*From a mother, in town, to her daughter, at boarding school in the country.*

Dear Child,

Although we are separated in person, yet you are never absent from my thoughts, and it is my

continual practice to recommend you to the care of that Being, whose eyes are on all his creatures, and to whom the secrets of all hearts are open. But I have been lately somewhat alarmed, because your two last letters do not run in that strain of unaffected piety as formerly. What, my dear, is this owing to? Does virtue appear to you as unpleasant? Is your beneficent Creator a hard master, or are you resolved to embark in the fashionable follies of a gay unthinking world? Excuse me, my dear, I am a mother, and a concern for your happiness is inseparably connected with my own. Perhaps I am mistaken, and, what I have considered as a fault, may only be the effusions of youthful gaiety. I shall consider it in that light, and be extremely glad, yea, happy, to find it so. Useful instructions are never too often inculcated, and, therefore, give me leave again to put you in mind of that duty, the performance of which alone can make you happy, both in time and in eternity.

Religion, my dear, is a dedication of the whole man to the will of God, and virtue is the actual operation of that truth, which diffuses itself through every part of our conduct: Its consequences are equally beneficial as its promises: "Her ways are ways of pleasantness and all her paths are peace." Whilst the gay unthinking part of youth are devoting the whole of their time to fashionable pleasures, how happy should I be to hear, that my

child was religious without hypocritical austerity, and even gay with innocence. Let me beg that you will spend at least one hour each day in perusing your Bible, and some of our best English writers, and don't imagine that religion is such a gloomy thing as some enthusiasts have represented; no, it indulges you in every rational amusement, so far as it is consistent with morality;—it forbids nothing but what is hurtful.

Let me beg you will consider attentively what I have written, and send me an answer as soon as you can.

I am your affectionate mother.

---

*The answer.*

Honoured Madam,

I am so much affected by the perusal of your really parental advice, that I can scarcely hold the pen to write an answer, but duty to the best of parents, obliges me to make you easy in your mind before I take any rest to myself. That levity so conspicuous in my former letters is too true to be denied, nor do I desire to draw a veil over my own folly. No, madam, I freely confess it; but with the greatest sincerity, I must at the same time declare that they were written in a careless manner, without considering the character of the person to whom they were addressed.

I am fully sensible of my error, and on all future occasions, shall endeavour to avoid giving the least offence. The advice you sent me in your valuable letter, wants no encomium; all that I desire is, to have them engraven on my heart. My dear madam, I love religion, I love virtue, and I hope no consideration will ever lead me from those duties in which alone I expect future happiness. Let me beg to hear from you often, and hope that my whole future conduct will convince the best of parents, that I am what she wishes me to be.

I am, honoured madam, your dutiful daughter.

---

*From an apprentice to his father, in praise of his master and family.*

Honoured Sir,

I know it will be a great satisfaction to you and my her dear mother, to hear that I go on very happily in my business; and my master, seeing my diligence, puts me forward, and encourages me in such a manner that I have great delight in it, and hope I shall answer, in time, your good wishes and expectations, and the indulgence which you have always shown to me. There is such good order in the family, as well on my mistress' part as my master's, that every servant, as well as I, knows their duty, and does it with pleasure. So much evenness.

sedateness, and regularity, is observed in all they enjoin or expect, that it is impossible but it should be so. My master is an honest, worthy man; every body speaks well of him. My mistress is a cheerful, sweet-tempered woman, and rather heals breaches than widens them. And the children, after such examples, behave to us all like one's own brothers and sisters. Who can but love such a family? I wish when it shall please God to put me in such a station, that I may carry myself just as my master does; and if I should ever marry, have just such a wife as my mistress: And then, by God's blessing, I shall be as happy as they are; and as you, sir, and my dear mother have always been. If any thing can make me still happier than I am, or continue to me my present felicity it will be the countenance of yours and my good mother's prayers, for honoured sir and madam.

Your ever dutiful son.

---

*The Father's Answer.*

Monday, October 10th, 1843.

Dear James,

I am extremely happy to hear that you find your situation so agreeable, and I hope you will study to deserve the kindness of your master and mistress. Believe me, my dear boy, there is no surer way of

promoting your own interest, than that of studying that of your employer.

Your mother and sisters are, thank God, in excellent health, and desire their love to you.

I am, your affectionate father.

P. S.—When you can be conveniently spared from business, we shall be happy to see you.

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*From a young woman, just gone to service in Boston, to her mother in the country.*

Dear Mother,

It is now a month that I have been at Mr. Wilson's, and thank God, that I like my place so well. My master and mistress are both worthy people, and greatly respected by all their neighbours. At my first coming there I thought every thing strange, and wondered to see such multitudes of people in the streets; but what I suffer most from is the remembrance of your's and my father's kindness; but I begin to be more reconciled to my state; as I know you were not able to support me at home. I return you a thousand thanks for the kind advice you were so good as to give me at parting, and I shall endeavour to practice them as long as I live: Let me hear from you as often as you have an opportunity: So with my duty to you and father, and kind love to all friends. I remain ever

Your most dutiful daughter.

*The mother's answer.*

My dear child,

I am glad to hear you have got into so worthy a family. You know that we never should have parted with you had it not been for your good. If you continue virtuous and obliging, all the family will love and esteem you. Keep yourself employed as much as you can, and be always ready to assist your fellow-servants. Never speak ill of anybody, but when you hear a bad story, try to soften it as much as you can; don't repeat it again, but let it slip out of your mind as soon as possible. I am in great hopes that all the family are kind to you, from the good character I have heard of them. If you have any time to spare from your business, I hope you will spend some part of it in reading your Bible, and other religious books. I pray for you daily, and there is nothing I desire more than my child's happiness. Remember that the more faithful you are in the discharge of your duty as a servant, the better you will prosper if you live to have a family of your own. Your father desires his blessing, and your brothers and sisters their love to you. Heaven bless you, my dear child! and continue you to be a comfort to us all, and particularly to

Your affectionate mother.

*From a father to a daughter, in dislike of her intentions to marry at so early an age.*

Dear Sally,

I was greatly surprised at the letter you sent me last week. I was willing to believe I saw in you for your years, so much of your late dear mother's temper, prudence, and virtuous disposition, that I refused several advantageous offers of changing my condition purely for your sake: And will you now convince me so early, that I have nô return to expect from you, but that the moment a young fellow throws himself in your way, you have nothing else to do, but to give me notice to provide a fortune for you? For that you intend to be of no further use and service to me. This, in plain English, is the meaning of your notification. For I suppose your young man does not intend to marry you without a fortune. And can you then think, that a father has nothing to do, but to confer benefits on his children, without being entitled to expect any return from them?

To be sure I had proposed, at a proper time, to find a husband for you, but I thought I had yet three or four years to come. For, consider, Sally, you are not fully sixteen years of age; and a wife, believe me, ought to have some better qualifications than an agreeable person, to preserve a husband's esteem, though it often is enough to attract a lover's notice.

Have you experience enough, think you, discreetly to conduct the affairs of a family? I thought you as yet not quite capable to manage my house; and I am sure, my judgment always took a bias in your favour.

Besides, let me tell you, I have great exceptions to the person, and think him by no means the man I would choose for your husband. For which, if it be not too late, I will give good reasons.

On the whole, you must expect, if you marry without my consent, to live without my assistance. Think it not hard: Your disappointment cannot be greater than mine, if you will proceed. I have never used violent measures to you on any occasion, and shall not on this. But yet I earnestly hope you will not hurry yourself to destruction, and me perhaps to the grave, by an action which a little consideration may so easily prevent. I am

Your afflicted father.

---

*From a young woman, a servant in Philadelphia, to her parents, desiring their consent to marry.*

Honoured Father and Mother,

I have sent this to inform you, that one Mr. Wood, a young man, a cabinet maker, has paid his addresses to me, and now offers me marriage. I told him I would do nothing without your consent, and

therefore have sent this by William Jones, your neighbour, who called on me, and will inform you particularly of his circumstances.

The young man has been set up in business about two years, and is very regular and sober. Most people in the neighbourhood esteem him, and his business is daily increasing. I think I could live extremely happy with him, but don't choose to give him my promise until I have first heard from you: Whatever answer you send shall be obeyed by

Your affectionate daughter.

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*The parents' answer.*

Dear child,

We received your letter by Mr. Jones, and the character he gives of the young man is so agreeable that we have no objection to your marrying him; begging that you will seriously consider the duties of that important state, before it is too late to repent. Consider well with yourself, that according to your conduct to each other, you must be either happy or miserable as long as you live. There are many occurrences in life in which the best of men's tempers may be much ruffled, on account of losses or disappointments; if your husband should at any time be so, endeavour to make him as easy as possible. Be careful of every thing he commits to your keeping;

and never affect to appear superior to your station; for although your circumstances may be easy, yet whilst in trade, you will find a continual want of money for many different purposes. It is possible some of your more polite neighbours may despise you for a while, but they will be forced in the end to acknowledge, that your conduct was consistent with the duties of a married state. But, above all, remember your duty to God, and then you may cheerfully look for a blessing on your honest endeavours. That God may direct you in every thing for the best, is the prayer of

Your loving father and mother.

---

*To wish a happy New Year.*

Pittsburg, January 1st, 1843.

Honoured Father,

I should neglect a most important duty, if I did not address you at the beginning of the year, to congratulate you on its arrival, and to wish you a long succession of them, each happier than the preceding.

Permit me at the same time, my dear father, to express my gratitude for all your kindnesses, particularly for the excellent education you have given me, which enables me to move in so respectable a circle, and will, I hope, render me a useful member

of society. Believe me, I feel fully sensible of its value, and will constantly endeavour to prove myself worthy of it.

I hope you will be very careful of your health; the weather is so inconstant that you should not go out much, as a cold caught at this season is dangerous.

I have great hopes of being able to pass a few days with you at the beginning of April. Pray write soon, and tell me all the news you can; give my love to my dear mother and sisters, and believe me

Your dutiful and affectionate son.

---

*From a young gentleman to his father.*

Honoured Sir,

After entreating you to make acceptable my duty to my mother, and love to my sisters, I embrace this opportunity of letting you know how happily I am settled in the family of the worthy doctor. The good gentleman, and his amiable lady, do every thing in their power to make my life agreeable during the intervals of my attendance on the public lectures. The doctor has begun to teach me geometry, and I hope soon to be able to make some progress in that useful science.

I have endeavoured to be as good an economist

as possible, but at present am obliged to purchase several books: I know your tenderness and generosity, and doubt not of hearing from you soon.

I am, sir, your affectionate and dutiful son.

---

*The Father's Answer*

Dear Charles,

I received your letter, and am greatly pleased to hear of the progress you make in your studies, as well as your agreeable situation. I know the doctor is a worthy man, and if your behaviour continues consistent with the duties of morality, you may be assured of his treating you with the same tenderness as if you were his own son.

As to the affair you mentioned concerning the books, the inclosed order will convince you that nothing on my part shall be wanting to furnish you with every thing necessary; as I am assured, from the whole of your former conduct, that you will not require any thing bordering on superfluity.

I am your affectionate father.

---

*From a merchant's widow to a lady, a distant relation, in behalf of her two orphans.*

Madam,

When you look at the superscription of this letter,

I doubt not of your being much surprised with its contents; but it is more on account of your amiable character, than that I have the honour of being your relation, that I have presumed to trouble you with this.

My late husband, who you know was reputed to be in affluent circumstances, has been dead about six months; his whole accounts have been settled with his creditors, and because of many losses and bad debts, there is not above one hundred pounds left for myself. I have a son just turned of fourteen, whom I want to bind apprentice to a reputable trade; and a daughter near seventeen, whose education has rendered her incapable of acting as a menial servant, although she would willingly be the companion of some young lady, where she might be treated with familiarity and tenderness. In circumstances so distressing, I have presumed to address myself to you; your long acquaintance with the world will enable you to direct me how to proceed, and I doubt not but your unbounded generosity will induce you to comply with a request dictated by the severity of affliction.

---

*The lady's answer.*

Madam,

I know not whether I am more affected with the

modest representation of your affliction, or pleased that I have it in my power to assist you. You see, madam, that all human expectations are vain, and often attended with deception; when we think our circumstances are independent, there is generally some latent mischief hidden under the specious appearance; and this should teach us continually to look to that Providence which superintends the affairs of this lower world, and orders all for the good of its creatures. With respect to your two children, I have proposed the following scheme for their benefit:

Let the boy think of some trade, to which his inclination leads him, and I will provide him with every necessary during his apprenticeship; and at the expiration of that term (if his behaviour is agreeable) advance something to set him up in business. As for the girl, let her be immediately sent to my house, where she shall be brought up along with my daughters, and every thing in my power done to serve her.

I expect that, from time to time, you will communicate to me an account of your own circumstances, that I may be happy in alleviating every calamity

I am, &c

*From a young gentlewoman to her mother.*

Honoured Mother,

In my last I informed you that my worthy benefactress, Mrs. Howard, had been extremely ill; I have the pleasure to assure you, that she is now perfectly recovered. The happiness of my present situation may be conceived, but it is not in my power to describe it. After we get up in the morning, the family are called together to return thanks to the Almighty for his preserving them during the preceding night, and to implore his protection on the remaining part of the day; afterwards we retire to breakfast. During the forenoon the young ones walk into the garden, or the fields, whilst the good lady is employed in dispensing medicines to her poor tenants. At one o'clock we dine, and afterwards retire to the summer-house, when each, in her turn, reads some part of the best English and American authors, whilst the others are employed in needle-work. I have received a letter from my brother, and am glad to hear he is settled in so good a family. I am, honoured madam,

Your affectionate and dutiful daughter.

---

*From a young gentleman, clerk to a merchant in town, to his father, in the country, soliciting pocket-money.*

Honoured Sir,

I wrote to you by Mr. Bale, the linen-draper, but

not having received any answer makes me very uneasy; although I have been as good an economist as possible, yet I find the pocket-money you allow me to take monthly from Mr. Willis, the grocer, is not sufficient to support my necessary expenses, although it was so at first. New York is such a place, that unless one maintains something of character, they are sure to be treated with contempt, and pointed at as objects of ridicule. I assure you, sir, that I abhor every sort of extravagance, as much as you can desire, and the small matter which I ask as an addition to your former allowance, is only to promote my own interest, and which, I am sure, you have as much at heart as any parent possibly can. My master will satisfy you that my conduct has been consistent with the strictest rules of morality. I submit to your judgment what you think proper to order. I did not choose to mention my want of money to Mr. Willis, and for this reason, have not taken any thing more than what you ordered. I hope you will not be offended with what I have written; as I shall always consider myself happy in performing my duty, and acquiring the favour of my honoured parents,

I am, honoured sir, your affectionate son.

Thompson dines at our house to-morrow, and he will bring you this. Your mamma has sent you half a dollar; and as you are so fond of books, I have sent you Rollin's Belles Lettres. Mr. Austin, our minister, says, that although all sorts of history are useful, yet he thinks you should begin with that of your own country: and he has sent you a present of the History of America, which is ornamented with a set of the most elegant copper-plates extant in this country. I have sent you the buckles and some other things, which you will find sealed up in the parcel. We all beg that you will continue to persevere as you have begun, in an uniform course of virtue. It will entitle you to the favour of God, be a pleasure to your parents, and turn out to your own advantage at the last.

I am, dear brother, yours, affectionately.

---

*From a sailor at Norfolk to his wife in New-York.*

Dear Betty,

We are just returned from a cruise against the English, and have given them such a drubbing, that I believe they will soon be glad to make peace with us. We have sunk two, and taken three of their ships, wherein is great treasure: but it will be some time before we receive our prize-money. However, I have six months wages due, and have

sent you an order, by which you will receive it, at the pay office in Broad-street. We will sail again in a few days. Do not be uneasy for me, my dear, as I hope the war will soon be over, and I shall have the pleasure, once more, to see you in New York, there to spend the remainder of my days.

I am your loving husband till death.

# PART II.

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# BUSINESS LETTERS.

## BUSINESS LETTERS.

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*Application to a merchant soliciting a situation as clerk.*

Philadelphia, May 6th, 1843.

Gentlemen,

Having heard that you are in want of a clerk capable of managing your French and Italian correspondence, I take the liberty of offering myself for the situation. Long practice in a counting house of the first respectability has rendered me perfectly conversant with mercantile affairs; and I flatter myself I should be found fully qualified to conduct your foreign correspondence. I can give the most unexceptionable references, and security to any amount. Should you wish further information, you will perhaps condescend to favour me with a line.

I am, gentlemen, etc.

*Requesting a friend to purchase some pictures at a sale.*

Albany, August 10th, 1843.

Dear Sir,

I have just learned, that on the tenth of next month there will be a sale of pictures at ———'s. Some of them, I am told, are rare pieces of the first masters. As it will be impossible for me to be in New York at that time, I shall feel obliged if you will go to the sale, and purchase for me what you think worth notice. If it were possible to see a catalogue in time, I would mark what I should wish to have.

Yours, etc.

---

*To request payment of an account.*

New-York, August 3d, 1843.

Dear Sir,

Being very much pushed for money at this moment, I should feel much obliged if you would let me have the balance of your account. I hope you will not disappoint me, as I have a heavy bill due to-morrow, and cannot take it up without your assistance. If you cannot command cash, you can perhaps give me a bill at a short date, so that I may get it discounted. I rely on you.

Are you in want of anything? I have just received a supply of Birmingham and Sheffield wares,

ll new patterns; give me a call and look at them. If you call to-day, you will have the first sight.

Yours, etc.

---

*Answer.*

Brooklyn, August 3d, 1843.

Dear Sir,

Not expecting my account till the end of the month, I am not prepared, having just employed the greater part of my ready money in a speculation which promises much advantage.

I have, however, enclosed a bill at twenty days, which will, I hope, answer your purpose.

No want of hardware at present.

Yours, etc.

---

*To stop the delivery of a parcel of goods to a person whose solvency is doubted.*

Philadelphia, April 30th, 1843.

Sir,

Having sent off a parcel of goods to Mr. L. of your place, and having since heard some unpleasant reports, we beg you will, on the arrival of the wagon, lay an attachment on the goods in our names, and deposit them in the warehouse at the

wagon-office till further information. We have, however, so much reliance on your discretion, that if you think Mr. L. solvent, we shall not object to the delivery. Favour us with an answer as soon as possible, as we are, of course, impatient to know the result.

We are, etc.

---

*Reply, assuring the solidity of the house, L.*

Pittsburg, May 9th, 1843.

Gentlemen,

Yours of the 30th ult. came duly to hand, and I lost no time in ascertaining the solidity of Mr. L. I find he has experienced temporary embarrassment, in consequence of the failure of a house with which he was intimately connected. Fortunately, however, he has just received a very considerable legacy, which enables him to go on, and has entirely re-established his credit; therefore, I shall not oppose the delivery of the goods, being fully convinced you have nothing to fear.

I am out of Port; send me fifty dozen, same quality as the last, two years, at least, in bottle; let it be carefully packed, as three bottles were broken in one of the hampers of the last you sent me.

I am, etc.

*Advice of the arrival of a vessel.*

Charleston, May 6th, 1843.

Sir,

We advise you of the arrival of the *Twee Gebroeders*, with the goods you consigned to us, all in good condition, except the Cochineal, which is damaged by sea-water, and deficient in weight 16 lbs We have spoken to the captain, who says the packages were sent on board in a bad condition; and we have, therefore, debited you with £—, the amount of the deficiency. As tin is in demand at your market, we have consigned a hundred cases to you; do the best you can with them.

Yours, etc.

---

*Advice of having executed an order.*

New York, April 29th, 1843.

Sir,

Yours of the 19th came duly to hand, and I lost no time in executing your order. I have not been able to procure the madders at your limits, as our market is at present very bare: but I hope the quality will compensate for the difference of price. I have shipped them on board a Dutch vessel, bound for your port, viz, the *Twee Gebroeders*, Captain Verbist; she sailed on the 20th, with a fair wind, so you may soon expect to hear of her arrival.

I thank you for your offer of service with regard to the bankruptcy of Smith & Co., but have given my instructions to Mr. ———, my solicitor.

Tin is looking up; a consignment of that article would be a good speculation.

I am yours, etc.

---

*To inquire the reputation of a merchant.*

Philadelphia, April 16th, 1842.

Sir,

I have just received a considerable order from a house at New-York, (Messrs. Clark & Co.,) who refer me to you. Do you think I can do business safely with them?

I have ascertained that the house of Brown and Jones is reputed good, but does not do much business.

It is rumoured this morning that Smith & Co. have stopped; I do not vouch for the truth of it, and have not time to inquire before the departure of the mail. Iron has got up 3s; but I think it still worth notice; fortunately I had shipped your nails before the rise. *The Hector* has cleared out and sails to-morrow with them on board. Give me the earliest intelligence of her arrival.

Yours, etc.

P. S.—I open the letter to add, that the stoppage

of Smith & Co. is confirmed; the amount is said to be considerable. Are you in it?

---

*From a retail to a wholesale dealer, complaining of the non-execution of his orders.*

Boston, June 28th, 1843.

Gentlemen,

I am sorry to be obliged to complain of your negligence in executing my orders. It is nearly three weeks since I ordered a parcel of goods of which I was much in want, and have experienced great inconvenience in consequence of not having received them.

I hope you will, on the receipt of this, immediately forward them.

I am, gentlemen, etc.

---

*Answer of the wholesale dealer.*

New-York, July 4th, 1843.

Sir,

We observe in yours of the 28th ult., which has just reached us, that you complain of our tardiness in the execution of your orders. You cannot, we are sure, feel surprised at it, if you consider the irregularity of your payments. Six months have

elapsed since we received a remittance from you, notwithstanding your promises to our traveller; and during that time we have sent you two parcels of goods.

We now, however, feel compelled to say, that, until the account is settled, and we are assured of regular payments, we must decline further orders.

We hope you will, by a prompt remittance, spare us the unpleasantness of referring you to our solicitor.

We are, etc.

---

*Excuse for not having completed an order.*

New-York, January 26th, 1843.

Gentlemen,

The various rumours, which during the last six weeks have kept our market in a state of continued agitation, have hitherto prevented me from executing your order. They are, however, beginning to subside, and will, I trust, be succeeded by a calm. I hope the loss of time will be compensated by the advantageous price at which I shall be able to procure the articles. The next post will, in all probability, announce the purchase.

Iron and tin continue in demand. You cannot do wrong in sending those articles; ship them, however, under English colours, as the Algerine cor-

sairs are on the look-out for the French flag. They have already captured two French brigs bound here.

Nothing further worth mentioning.

Yours, etc.

---

*To request payment of a sum lent.*

Friday.

Believe me, dear sir, I am extremely sorry to be under the necessity of asking you for the trifle I lent you some time ago.

The total stagnation of trade has placed me in a very embarrassing situation, and compels me to have recourse to every expedient. Under such circumstances, you will not, I hope, deem me importunate, as I should lament any interruption of the friendship that has so long existed between us.

Yours ever.

---

*Answer.*

Saturday.

Dear Sir,

I regret that any circumstances should have placed you in an unpleasant situation, and I lose no time in sending you the sum you had the kindness to lend me. I beg you to accept my thanks for the

favour, and to permit me to repay the obligation by offering you the same accommodation.

Believe me, sir, your devoted friend.

---

*Another answer.*

I am excessively sorry, my dear sir, that it is not in my power to comply with your request at the present moment. If, however, a bill at a short date, will be of service to you, you may draw upon me, say at fifteen days, or ten, if it will suit you better.

Yours, etc.

---

*From a young man who is dissatisfied with his situation.*

New-York, October 7th, 1843.

Dear Father,

The fear of offending you, and the hope that things would mend, have hitherto prevented me from addressing you on the subject of my situation at Mr. B———'s. I have now been two years with him, and I am sorry to say, without much benefit. It is true, I am treated very well, as far as regards living; but I am convinced, that I shall never learn my trade sufficiently well to be able to obtain a live-

lihood. Mr. B. is frequently out of town during a fortnight, leaving the business under the direction of his son, who knows very little more of it than I do.

I think, therefore, dear father, it is a pity to waste my time, and I should be much obliged if you would take an opportunity of speaking to Mr. B. on the subject. I have no doubt but a situation might be found, which would prove much more advantageous in many respects; but I would avoid, if possible, giving offence to my master. I leave the whole, however, to your judgment and decision, being fully convinced that whatever you do will be for my good. I shall have the pleasure of seeing you on Sunday, when we can talk the subject over; but I thought it best to mention it beforehand, that you might have an opportunity of giving it a little consideration. Adieu, dear father, till Sunday.

Your dutiful son.

---

*An urgent demand of payment.*

Mr. Thompson,

The exigence of my affairs compels me thus importunately, nay, peremptorily, to write to you. Can you think it possible to carry on business in the manner you act by me? You know what promises you have made, and how from time to time,

you have broken them. Can I, therefore, depend upon any new ones you make? If you use others as you do me, how can you think of carrying on business? If you do not, what must I think of the man who deals worse by me than by others? If you think you can trespass more upon me than you can on others, that is a very bad compliment to my prudence or your own gratitude; for surely good usage should be entitled to the same in return. I know how to allow for disappointments, as well as any man; but, can a man be disappointed for ever? Trade is so dependent a thing, that it cannot be carried on without mutual punctuality. Does not the merchant expect it from me for those very goods I send you? And can I make a return to him without receiving it from you? What end can it answer to give you two years' credit, and then be at an uncertainty, for goods which I sell at a small profit, and have only six months' credit for myself? Indeed, sir, this will never do. I must be more punctually used by you, or else deal as little punctually with others, and then, what must be the consequence? In short, sir, I expect a handsome payment by the next return, and security for the remainder, as I am loth to take any harsh measures to procure justice to myself, my family and creditors. For I am, if it be not your own fault,

Your faithful friend and servant.

*The answer.*

Sir,

I acknowledge with gratitude the lenity you have at all times shown, and my being obliged to disappoint you so often has given me much uneasiness. I do assure you, sir, that I am not so ungrateful as my conduct has given reason to believe. From the state of my accounts, you will find that the greatest part of my property is in the hands of country dealers, who, although they seldom fail, yet their times of payment are precarious and uncertain. However, to convince you of my integrity, I send by this day's post an order for two hundred dollars, and next week you shall receive one much larger. The remainder shall be sent in a short time. I am determined, for the future, to make the rules laid down in your excellent letter a guide in my dealings with those people, whose dilatoriness in making good their payments to me, obliged me to disappoint you; and to convince you further of my integrity, the goods which I order, until the old account is paid off, shall be for ready money. I doubt not but that you will continue to treat me with the same good usage as formerly, and believe me to be, unfeignedly,

Your obliged humble servant.

*Recommending a man servant.*

Sir,

The bearer has served me with integrity and fidelity these three years; but having a désire to settle in Philadelphia, he left my house about a week ago, and by a letter received from him this day, I find you are willing to employ him on my recommendation, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I comply with his request. His behaviour, while with me, was strictly honest, sober, and diligent, and I doubt not but it will be the same with you. I have sent this enclosed in one to himself; and if you employ him, I hope he will give satisfaction

I am, sir, your humble servant.

---

*The answer.*

Sir,

I received your obliging letter in recommendation of the young man, and in consequence of that, have taken him into my family. I doubt not, from what you say, of his giving satisfaction; and you may be assured of his being treated with humanity, and rewarded according to his merit. I am,

Your humble servant.

*From a tenant to a landlord, excusing delay of payment.*

Sir,

I have been your tenant above ten years in the house where I now live, and you know that I have never failed to pay my rent quarterly when due. At present I am extremely sorry to inform you, that from a variety of losses and disappointments, I am under the necessity of begging that you will indulge me one quarter longer. By that time I hope to have it in my power to answer your just demand; and the favour shall be ever gratefully acknowledged by your

Obedient humble servant.

---

*From a young man in the country, to a merchant in New-York, offering correspondence.*

Sir,

My apprenticeship with Mr. Wilson being expired, during which I had proofs of your integrity in all your dealings with my worthy employer, my parents have given me six hundred dollars to begin the world, which you know is not sufficient to carry on trade to any advantage: that I may be able to sell my goods as cheap as possible, I would choose to have them from the first hand, and likewise the usual time of credit. If it is agreeable to

you, I hereby offer my correspondence, not doubting but you will use me as well as you did Mr. Wilson; and you may depend on my punctuality with respect to payments.

My late employer has no objection to my setting up, as it will not be in the least prejudicial to his business. I shall depend on your sending me the following order, as soon, and as cheap as possible; and am, sir,

Your humble servant.

---

*The merchant's answer.*

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely glad to hear that your parents have enabled you to open a shop for yourself. Your behaviour to your last employer was such, that it cannot fail of procuring you many customers. I have sent you the goods with the Stafford wagon in twelve parcels, marked X, I, and I doubt not, but you will be punctual in your returns, which will always enable me to serve you as low as possible, and with the best goods which I can procure. I heartily wish you success in business; and doubt not but you well know, that honesty and assiduity are the most likely means to insure it; and am,

Your obliged servant.

*From a young man whose master had lately died.*

Sir,

I doubt not but you have heard of my late worthy master's death. I have served him as apprentice and journeyman above twelve years; and as my mistress does not choose to carry on the business, I have taken the shop and stock in trade, and shall be glad to deal with you in the same manner he did. I have sent the enclosed order, for payment of such bills as are due, and you may depend on punctuality with respect to the remainder, for which purpose let them be entered as my debt. Please to send the enclosed order, and let the goods be the best you have, which will oblige,

Your humble servant.

---

*The answer.*

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear of the death of my good friend, your late master, but at the same time, pleased to find that his business has fallen into such good hands as yours. You have double advantage over a stranger, as you are well acquainted both with your late master's trade and customers, which by his dealings with me appear to be very extensive. I have sent your order in ten bales marked O P, by the Speedwell, of

Albany, John Thompson, master, and you will find them as good and cheap as any that are to be had in New-York. I heartily thank you for your offered correspondence, and shall on all occasions use you with honour. I wish you all manner of success, and am, &c

---

*To a correspondent, requesting the payment of a sum of money.*

Sir,

Although the balance of the account between us has been of long standing in my favour, yet I would not have applied to you at present, had not a very unexpected demand been made upon me for a considerable sum, which, without your assistance, it is not in my power to answer. When I have an opportunity of seeing you, I shall then inform you of the nature of this demand, and the necessity of my discharging it. I hope you will excuse me this freedom, which nothing but a regard to my credit and family could oblige me to take. If it does not suit you to remit the whole, part will be thankfully received, by

Your humble servant.

*The answer.*

Sir,

I have just received yours, and am sorry to hear of your affliction. That the account between us was not sooner settled, was owing to the failure of two principal creditors. I have just received a remittance from Boston, and am greatly pleased that it is in my power to answer the whole of your demand. The balance between us is two hundred and fifty dollars, for which I have sent enclosed an order on Mr. Cash, the broker. I hope you will surmount this, and every other difficulty, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

---

*From a young person in trade, to a wholesale dealer, who had suddenly made a demand on him.*

Sir,

Your demand coming very unexpectedly, I must confess I am not prepared to answer it. I know the stated credit in this article used only to be four months; as it has been always the custom to allow at least two months more, I did not think you would have sent for it till that time; and consequently trusted to a practice so long established in trade. Sir, I beg you will not suppose it is any deficiency which hinders me from complying with your request, nor shall I ask any more than is usual. If

you will be pleased to let your servant call this day three weeks for the one half of the sum, it shall be ready, and the remainder in a fortnight after. In the mean time, I beg that you will not let any word slip concerning this, as very little will hurt a young beginner. Sir, you may take my word with the greatest safety, that I will pay you as I have promised; and if you have any reason to demand the money sooner, be pleased to let me know, that if I have it not, I may borrow it; for if I have lost credit with you, I hope I have not done so with all the world.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

---

*The answer.*

Sir,

There is no person in the world who could more willingly show every indulgence to a young beginner than myself, and I am extremely sorry to press you on the present occasion; but I have reasons; and although it is not always either fair or prudent to mention them, yet you will give me leave to ask the following question: whether you have any dealings with an usurer near the Exchange, and what is his name? If you give me satisfaction on this head, I shall not urge the demand I have made upon you sooner than the time you mention; but as it

may be done at once, I expect your answer by the bearer, whom you well know, for he was, as he informs me, very lately your servant.

I assure you, sir, it is in consideration of the great opinion I have of your integrity, that I refer the payment of my demand to a simple answer to this question; but I fear that cannot be done.

I am your friend and well-wisher.

---

*From a tradesman to a wholesale dealer, to delay payment of a sum of money.*

Sir,

My note to you will be payable in ten days, and I am sorry to inform you, that although I have considerable sums in good hands, yet none of them are due these three weeks, which is all the time I require. It is a favour I never asked of any one till this moment, and I hope for the future not to have any occasion to repeat it. I am really distressed for your answer; but as proof of my sincerity, have sent inclosed three notes subscribed by persons well known to yourself, and although they exceed my debt, yet I have no objection to your keeping them as security till due. Let me beg to hear from you as soon as this comes to hand, which will greatly oblige,

Your humble servant.

*The answer.*

Sir,

It was extremely fortunate for you that your letter arrived the day after it was written, for I was to have paid your note away yesterday, and I could not have had an opportunity of recalling it in time to have served you. Indeed it was imprudent not to have communicated the news to me sooner, as your credit might have been greatly affected by such an unnecessary delay. However, I impute it to your unwillingness to reveal the state of your affairs, and shall keep the note in my hands till your own becomes due, and for that purpose have returned the others, not doubting but you will send me the money at the time promised, which will greatly oblige,

Your sincere well-wisher.

---

*From a country shopkeeper to a dealer in New-York, complaining of the badness of his goods.*

Sir,

When I first began to correspond with you, it was my fixed resolution to act with integrity and honour, expecting the same in return. I must, indeed, confess that the goods you sent me for sometime, were as good as any I could purchase from another, and so far I had not any reason to complain. But now

the case is quite different; the two last parcels you sent me are so bad that I dare not offer them to my customers. From what, sir, does this proceed? have I ever been deficient in my payments? No, you dare not accuse me with any thing of that nature. However, I am obliged to tell you, that unless you send me others in their room, I must either withdraw my correspondence, or shut up my shop. You may choose which you please, and let me beg to have your answer by return of post, as I am in immediate want of these goods, and in danger of losing my customers by a delay.

In so doing you will oblige, &c

* * *

*The answer.*

Sir,

I received yours, and am extremely sorry to hear the goods sent you were so bad. By some mistake my servants have inadvertently sent some goods I had in my warehouse, not intended for any of my customers, for which I am extremely sorry; but, in order to make you amends, I send, by this day's wagon, those which I had originally intended for you, at my own expense. I hope you will excuse this, and be assured you shall never be served in such a manner for the future.

I am, sir, your humble servant.

*From a tradesman in distressed circumstances, desiring an extension.*

Sir,

It is now above ten years since I first had dealings with you, and during that time you well know that my payments were regular; but at present, I am sorry that my affairs are so perplexed, that it is not in my power to comply with the just demands of my creditors, nor even to pay them any thing until my affairs are settled: for that reason, sir, I have sent to you, desiring an extension for only twelve months, in which time I hope to be able to settle my affairs to their satisfaction; but if they will not comply with this, I am utterly ruined. Your answer is impatiently expected by,

Your obedient humble servant.

---

*The answer.*

Sir,

Yours I received, and am extremely sorry to hear that your circumstances are so distressed. In order to comply with your request, I called a meeting of the creditors, and I doubt not but they will agree to a proposal so fair and reasonable, of which I shall give you notice.

I am, sir, your real friend.

# PART III.

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# LETTERS

ON

# LOVE, COURTSHIP AND MARRIAGE.

## LOVE COURTSHIP, AND MARRIAGE

---

*To ask advice on marriage.*

New-York, September 3d, 1843.

My very dear friend,

Having frequently profited by your good advice, I think I cannot do better than address myself to you on a subject of a very serious nature.

I have frequently explained to you my intention to remain single till thirty. I am not, however, ashamed to confess that my resolution begins to weaken, and has lately experienced some very serious trials. The fact is, that I have recently had the happiness of falling into company with a very amiable creature, who is on a visit at our friend B's. I understand she is of a good family, and her character irreproachable. I have shown her some attention, and have reason to flatter myself that I might hope success.

I have hitherto undertaken no affair of consequence without having previously consulted you.

and have always experienced the good effects of following your advice; I beg, therefore, you will, on this important occasion, give it to me without reserve, and thus supply the place of my late dear father, whose loss I shall never cease to deplore.

Do me the favour not to mention the subject out of your own family, and above all, if your advice should be dissuasive, I have not given the smallest idea on the subject to any one here, nor shall I; and as the attention I have shown the young lady has not been more than politeness alone would inspire, I shall not have to regret having wounded the sensibility of an amiable girl.

I will not, however, my dear friend, attempt to conceal from you my desire that your opinion may be favourable. I flatter myself also that you know me well enough to feel convinced that I am well aware of the importance of marriage, and that I will reflect seriously before forming the eternal engagement.

Yours truly.

---

*From a young tradesman lately entered into business, to his father, asking his consent to marry.*

Honoured Sir,

You know that it is now above a year since I entered into business for myself, and finding it daily

increasing, I am obliged to look out for an agreeable partner, I mean a wife. There is a very worthy family in this neighbourhood, with whom I have been some time acquainted. They are in good circumstances, and have a daughter, an amiable young woman, greatly esteemed by all who know her. I have paid my addresses to her, and likewise obtained the parents' consent, on condition that it is agreeable to you. I would not do any thing of that nature without your consent; but I hope that, upon the strictest inquiry, you will find her such a person, that you will not have any objection to a match so advantageous. I, on every occasion, endeavour to act with the greatest prudence, consistent with the rules you were pleased to prescribe for my conduct. The parents are to pay me five hundred dollars on the day of marriage, if the event shall happen to take place; and as they have no other children, the whole of their property becomes ours at their death. In whatever light you are pleased to consider this, I shall abide by your direction, and your answer, in the mean time, is impatiently expected,

By your dutiful son.

*From a lady just married, to her friend.*

Chester, May 2d, 1842.

Dear Eliza,

Do not be surprised at seeing a strange name at the bottom of this letter. She who writes it was Miss Jones, but her lover insisted that she had borne that name long enough; in fact, my dear, I am married.

I send you a pair of gloves and a piece of the bride-cake, hoping I shall very soon receive a similar present from you. Take my advice, my dear girl, and marry as soon as you can. You see I am as gay as ever: marriage has not altered me, nor do I think it will; but pray come and wish me joy.

We are at our country-house at Chester, where we intend to pass the honey-moon. My dear husband will be very glad to see you. He knows how sincerely I am attached to you, and he loves every body that I love. Bring some of your music, and above all, your delightful voice. You know how your warbling charms me. Now, do not send any excuses; positively I will admit of none. If you do not come, I shall say you are envious, and cannot witness felicity; but you will come. I am sure my Eliza will oblige

Her affectionate,

E. Clark.

P. S. Have the goodness to let your servant call on the tuner, and tell him to come immediately to

tune my piano, and to bring some harp strings with him.

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*Reply.*

Philadelphia, May 3d, 1843.

My dear Emily.

THOUGH I had some reason to think you were approaching the indissoluble union, yet I did not imagine it was so very near. I anticipated the pleasure I should experience in the agreeable task of assisting you in your preparations; but you have disappointed me. I forgive you, my dear, and heartily rejoice in your happiness. May your felicity be long and uninterrupted!

You advise me to marry as soon as possible; be assured I shall not delay, when I have found an object worthy of my love and esteem; but I dread nothing so much as taking such an important step without mature consideration; however, you may, perhaps, hear of it sooner than you imagine. I thank you, my dear, for your very kind invitation, and will avail myself of it. You may, therefore, expect me on Monday afternoon. Adieu, God bless you.

Yours affectionately,

ELIZA COOK.

*From a young Gentleman to a Lady with whom he is in Love.*

Madam,

I have three times attempted to give you a verbal relation of the contents of this letter, but my heart has as often failed. I know not in what light it may be considered, only if I can form any notion of my own heart, from the impression made on it by your many amiable accomplishments, my happiness in this world will, in a great measure, depend on your answer. I am not precipitate, madam, nor would I desire your hand, if your heart did not accompany it. My circumstances are independent, and my character hitherto unblemished, of which you shall have the most undoubted proof. You have already seen some of my relations at your aunt's in Cherry-street, particularly my mother, with whom I now live. Your aunt will inform you concerning our family, and if it is to your satisfaction, I shall not only consider myself extremely happy, but shall also make it the principal study of my future life, to spend my days in the company of her whom I do prefer to all others in the world. I shall wait for your answer with the utmost impatience, and am,

Madam, your real admirer

*The Lady's Answer.*

Sir,

I received your letter last night, and as it was on a subject I had not yet any thoughts of, you will not wonder when I tell you, I was a good deal surprised. Although I have seen you at different times, yet I had not the most distant thought of your making proposals of such a nature. Those of your sex have often asserted that we are fond of flattery, and mightily pleased to be praised. I shall, therefore, suppose it true, and excuse you for those fulsome encomiums bestowed upon me in your letter; but am afraid, were I to comply with your proposals, you would soon be convinced that the charms you mention, and seem to value so much, are merely exterior appearances, which, like the summer flower, will very soon fade, and all those mighty professions of love will end at last either in indifference, or, which is worse, disgust. You desire me to inquire of my aunt concerning your character and family. You must excuse me when I tell you, that I am obliged to decline making any such inquiry. However, as your behaviour, when in my company, was always agreeable, I shall treat you with as much respect as is consistent with common decorum. My worthy guardian, Mr. Melvill, is now at his seat on Long Island, and his conduct to me has been so much like that of a parent, that I don't choose to take one step in an affair of such importance, with-

out both his consent and approbation. There is an appearance of sincerity runs through your letter, but there is one particular to which I have a very strong objection. It is this: you say that you live along with your mother, yet you don't say you have either communicated your sentiments to her, or to your other relations. I must freely and honestly tell you, that as I would not disoblige my own relations, so neither would I, on any consideration, admit of any addresses contrary to the inclination of yours. If you can clear up this to my satisfaction, I shall send you a more explicit answer, and am, sir,

Your most obedient humble servant.

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*The Gentleman's Answer to the above.*

Dear Madam,

I RETURN you a thousand thanks for your letter, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I can clear up to your satisfaction that matter you doubted of. Before I wrote to you, I communicated the affair to my two cousins, but had not courage sufficient to mention it to my mother; however, that is now over, and nothing, she says, would give her greater pleasure, than to see me married to a young lady of your amiable character; nay, so far is she from having any objections, that she would have waited on you as the bearer of this, had I not persuaded her against

it, as she has been these three days afflicted with a severe cold, and I was afraid, that if she had ventured abroad so soon, it might be attended with dangerous consequences. But, to convince you of my sincerity, she has sent the enclosed, written with her own hand, and whatever may be the contents, I solemnly assure you, that I am totally ignorant, except that she told me it was in approbation of my suit. If you will give me leave to wait on you, I shall then be able to explain things more particularly. I am, dear madam, your real lover.

---

*From the young Gentleman's Mother, to the young Lady.*

Dear Miss,

If you find any thing in these lines improperly written, you will candidly excuse it, as coming from the hands of a parent, in behalf of an only beloved and dutiful son.

My dear Charles has told me that you have made such an impression on him, that he knows not how to be happy in any one else, and it gives me great happiness to find that he has placed his affections on so worthy an object. Indeed, it has been my principal study to instruct him in the principles of our holy religion; well knowing that those who do not fear God, will never pay any regard to domestic duties. His dear father died when his son was only

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ten months old, and being deprived of the parent, all my consolation was that I had his image left in the son. I nursed him with all the tenderness possible, and even taught him to read and write. When he was of proper age I sent him to a boarding-school, and afterwards to the University. Whilst he was prosecuting his studies, I was constantly employed in recommending him to the care of that God whose eyes behold all his creatures, and will reward and punish according to their merit. Ever since his return from College, he has resided constantly with me, and his conduct to every one with whom he has had any connection, has been equal to my utmost wishes. At present, my dear Miss, I am in a very sickly condition, and although I have concealed it from him, yet, in all human probability, my time in this world will not be long. Excuse the indulgent partiality of a mother when I tell you, that it is my real opinion, you can never place your affections on a more worthy young man than my son. He is endowed with more real worth than thousands of others whom I have known; and I have been told of instances of his benevolence which he has industriously concealed. I have only to add further, that the only worldly consideration now upon my mind is to see him happily married, and then my whole attention shall be fixed on that place where I hope to enjoy eternal felicity.

I am, dear Miss, your sincere well-wisher.

*The young Lady's Answer.*

Madam,

I will excuse the fondness of a tender mother for her only child. Before I received yours, I had heard an account of your unaffected piety, and the many accomplishments of your son; so that I was in no ways surprised at what you say concerning him. I do assure you, madam, that I would prefer an alliance with you before even nobility itself, and I think it must be my own fault if ever I repent calling you mother. I was going to say that you had known but few pleasures in this life to be deprived of your husband so soon, and the rest of your life spent under so many infirmities. But your letter convinces me, that you have felt more real pleasure in the practice of virtue and resignation to the Divine will, than ever can be had in any, nay, even the greatest temporal enjoyments. I have sent enclosed a few lines to your son, to which I refer you for a more explicit answer, and am,

Madam, your sincere well-wisher.

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*The young Lady's Answer to her Lover.*

Sir,

I received yours, together with one enclosed from your mother, and congratulate you on the happiness you have had in being brought up under so pious,

so indulgent a parent. I hope that her conduct will be a pattern for you to copy after, in the whole of your future life; it is virtue alone, sir, which can make you happy. With respect to myself, I freely acknowledge that I have not at present any reason to reject your offer, although I cannot give you a positive answer until I have first consulted with my guardian. Monday next I set out for his seat on Long Island, from whence you may be sure of hearing from me as soon as possible, and am,

Your sincere well wisher.

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*From the Same*

Sir,

In my last I told you that you should hear from me as soon as possible, and, therefore, I now sit down to fulfil my promise. I communicated your proposal to Mr Melvill, who, after he had written to his correspondent in New York, told me as follows:

"Miss, I have inquired concerning the young gentleman, and the information I have received is such, that I not only approve of your choice, but must also confess, that if I did not do every thing in my power to forward your union, I should be acting contrary to the request of your father when he lay on his death-bed. You may, said he, communicate this to your lover as soon as you please, and may

every happiness attend you, both in time and in eternity!"

And now sir, have I not told you enough? some might think too much; but, I am determined to begin with as much sincerity as I could wish to practise if standing in the presence of my Maker. To expect the same from you is reasonable; I look for it and shall be very unhappy if disappointed. But I will hope the best, and doubt not but the religious education bestowed on you by your worthy mother, will operate in the whole of your future conduct in life. You may, therefore, lay aside the tedious formality of courtship, and write to me as one with whom you intend to spend your time in this world. Ever since my arrival here, my time has been spent in visiting, *solus*, the woods, the fields, and cottages, meditating on the unbounded goodness of the Almighty Creator. How infinite is his wisdom, how unbounded his liberality! every thing in nature conspires to exalt his praise, and acknowledge with gratitude their dependence on him. But I will not tire you with such dull descriptions of real beauties. Present my sincere respects to your worthy mother. I hope she gets the better of her disorder, and be assured that I am,

Yours and hers, with the greatest affection.

*The young Gentleman's Answer.*

My Dear Angel,

Is there any medium between pleasure and pain? can mourning and mirth be reconciled? will my dear charmer believe that, whilst I was reading her letter with the greatest pleasure, I was shedding tears for an affectionate parent? Thus Divine Providence thinks proper to mix some gall with our portion in life. It is impossible for me to describe the variety of passions now struggling in my breast: Ten thousand blessings to my charmer on the one hand, and as many tears to a beloved parent on the other. I conceived a notion of two impossibilities; one of which I am obliged to struggle with, the other, thanks to you, is over. I thought I could not live without my dear and honoured mother, nor enjoy one moment's comfort, unless I could call you mine! but I am now obliged to submit to the one, whilst I have the pleasing prospect of being in possession of the other. Will my dear sympathize with me, or will she bear with human passions? and although all my hope of temporal happiness is centered in you, yet, I doubt not, but you will excuse my shedding a tear over the remains of a dear parent, whom I am now going to commit to the tomb. My dear creature, were it possible for me to describe the many virtues of that worthy woman who is now no more, you would draw a veil over the partiality of filial duty. Her last words were

these: "My dear child, I am now going to pay that debt imposed on the whole human race, in consequence of our first parents' disobedience. You know what instructions I have given you from time to time; and let me beg of you to adhere to them so far as they are consistent with the will of God, revealed in his word. May you be happy in the possession of that young lady on whom you have placed your affections, but may both you and she remember, that real happiness is not to be found in this world; and you must consider your life in this world, as merely a state of probation. To the Almighty God I recommend you—"

She was going on, when the thread of life was broken, and she ceased to be any more. Such was the last end of my dear mother, whose remains are to be interred this evening; and as soon as I can settle everything with her executors, I will (as it were) fly to meet you. God grant that our happiness in this life may be conducive towards promoting our everlasting felicity hereafter.

I am, as before, yours while life remains.

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*The six following are genuine, and passed between a Gentleman and a Lady some time ago, but were never before published.*

*From the Gentleman.*

Madam,

It was a question among the Stoics, whether the

whole of human life afforded most pleasure or pain? for my own part, I have always wished to consider things in the fairest light, but I often find my resolution weakened; and when I think to act the philosopher, I feel myself nothing but a man. When my late wife died, about two years ago, I proposed making the tour of England, that, by mixing with strangers, my thoughts might be led from fruitless reflections on the loss I had sustained; a loss which none but myself knows. It is true, it has been so far successful, that it has taught me two things: first, resignation to the will of heaven; and, secondly, that I am still unhappy in the want of a female partner. The agreeable company at the house of your worthy brother, obliged me to spend more time at York than I at first intended, nor did I know, until I had proceeded some miles, that I should be obliged once more to return. In short, madam, I am a second time in love; and although you may be disposed to laugh, yet I assure you that I am in real earnest; your own dear self is the object. But perhaps you will ask, How happens all this? I answer, that I cannot tell how it happens. But I am really fond of domestic life, and am once more resolved to alter my condition. I cannot flatter, and I think both you and I have lived long enough to judge for ourselves. There was something pleased me much in the prudent manner you conducted the affairs of your brother's

house; but, as he is on the point of being married, that employment will cease when the other event takes place. I did not hear that you was engaged by promise to any other; and as you have heard something concerning my family, character, and circumstances, you are more able to judge whether my present proposals are for your interest. In case you have any objections to my having children, I can only say, that they will be easily answered. I have told you before, that I have only two young daughters, now at a boarding-school, and I have settled each of their marriage portions, and the remainder is entirely for myself; and without being any real prejudice to my children, is more than sufficient for us both. As to the common objection against being a step-mother, I think it may be easily answered, when I tell you, that my children will treat you with all manner of respect. I do not imagine you can esteem me the worse for loving my children: I have too good an opinion of you to think so; and as for the odious appellations usually thrown out against step-mothers, they can only be considered by a lady of your sensibility, as the effect of prejudice, operating upon vulgar minds, occasioned by the conduct of some inhuman wretches, who are a disgrace to society, and who would have acted in the same manner had they been placed in another station of life. Your own good sense will point out the propriety of what I say. From what I have

written, you will be able to judge, whether or not the proposals I have now made, are apparently for your real advantage. All that I desire is, to live in amity and friendship with the woman on whom I have placed my affections, as long as I am in the world. Every thing in my power shall be exerted to make you as happy as possible, as I think, if I am not mistaken, every part of your conduct will entitle you to deserve it. I hope you will not defer sending me an answer, as I shall wait for it with the utmost impatience. I am, madam,

Yours sincerely and affectionately.

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*The Lady's Answer.*

Sir,

I have just received your letter, and for my own part must say, that you have acted the philosopher extremely well. I thought that love-letters had not usually been extracted from Seneca or Epictetus; but why do I wonder, when even a lady, now alive, went through the drudgery of learning the Greek language, in order to acquire the honour of being the translator of the latter. However, she has got far enough, and I have not any intention of following her, but shall consider my lover's philosophical letter.

Whilst you remained at our house, I must ac-

knowledge that your company was agreeable; and your assiduity to please arose from a consciousness of your merit as a gentleman, although, at that time, neither my brother nor myself had the most distant thoughts of ever hearing such a proposal as your letter contains. It is our common practice to entertain strangers in the same manner we did you, which is consistent with old English hospitality, and something like the conduct of the ancient patriarchs.

The proposals which you have sent me are of too serious a nature to be treated lightly, they require to be considered with the greatest attention; especially as a wrong step of that sort not only destroys all hopes of temporal happiness, but what is infinitely worse, often endangers that which is eternal. I doubt not but you have seen many fatal instances of this melancholy truth, viz. That those who were bound by the most solemn engagements to go hand in hand through affluence and poverty, have often prevented the one, and hastened those afflictions inseparably connected with the other. The consideration of those things presents us with a glaring proof of the corruption of human nature in general, and particularly its most desirable state, pretended conjugal felicity. The causes from which unhappiness arises in families are various; and although I never was a wife, yet I have seen many fatal instances of their pernicious effects. You yourself seem to be aware of this, in the objections

stated in your letter; and although I have convincing proofs that your circumstances are consistent with your representation of them, yet the second objection is not so easily answered, nor, indeed, have you done it to my satisfaction. Your answers to the common objection made against step-mothers, are altogether rational; they are what reason will at all times dictate, and prudence on every occasion require; but you will excuse me if I tell you sincerely, that even in the opinion of the thinking part of the world, the life of a step-mother is far more disagreeable than you endeavour to persuade me. All eyes are upon her, and even her virtues are often construed into faults. I acknowledge that it could never enter into the mind of a rational creature (I mean one who is really so) that a woman should tyrannize over two or three orphans, for no other reason save only that their mother was their father's former wife. This would prove her guilty of three of the most odious crimes capable of being committed in the conjugal state. First, inhumanity to the deceased mother; secondly, cruelty to the surviving children; and lastly, a total disrespect for the husband; for what woman would esteem the man, or what regard could she think he would have for her children, if he did not treat, or cause to be treated with tenderness, those who were born of a woman equally dear to him as herself? But you know, sir, that we live in the world, and few, re-

lieve, would choose to have their lives rendered unhappy, if they could possibly avoid it. Your character, circumstances, and accomplishments, might entitle you to a much better wife than me; but I confess the above reasons weigh strongly in my mind against such a connection; and unless they were answered more to my satisfaction than what you have already done, I should choose still to remain as I am. In the mean time, I shall be glad, at all times, to hear from you, and am,

Your sincere well-wisher.

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*The Gentleman's Reply.*

Madam,

I HAVE always thought, that there are none more ready to condemn the conduct of others, than those who are most guilty themselves, and of this your letter is a convincing proof. Do not be surprised, for I am really in earnest. You have accused me of acting the philosopher, whilst you seem much better acquainted with those sages than myself. But pray, madam, is it any great fault to write a love letter in a serious strain? or should every thing on that subject be only a jumble of incoherent nonsense? should the lover divest himself of the man, and, because he prefers a woman to the rest of the sex, must he act the part of a fool to obtain

her? I dare venture to say, you will answer in the negative. Your letter contains so many prudential reasons for refusing my offers, that I should be stupid indeed if I did not consider them as the result of a well-informed judgment. All the objections I have against them is, that they appear too much grounded on popular censure. I believe you are well acquainted with the world, and you know that the best actions have been misrepresented, and the most amiable characters traduced. Nor has this been confined to any one single station in life; it has diffused itself through them all: and although its baneful influence has often rendered innocence miserable, yet the prudent will despise it with that contempt it so justly merits. Virtue is its own reward; and happiness,

Deaf to folly's call,
Attends the music of the mind.

Whilst a woman of your great good sense has the answer of a good conscience in approbation of her conduct, how insignificant must the envious censure of malice appear, when compared with real peace of mind! Indeed, I think you have carried your objections against being a step-mother rather too far, and I think I shall not be guilty of blasphemy, when I call your refinement of sentiment *false delicacy*. However, as I said before, I am really in earnest; and if I have not formed an erroneous judgment, you are the only person I have yet con

versed with, since I became a widower, with whom I think I can live happy. And will you, madam, be so cruel as to remain obstinate in rejecting my suit? I do not think it is consistent with your good nature; and although I think it is beneath a generous mind to purchase a wife, yet I shall be willing to make your settlement equal to your wishes, besides a sufficiency for your children, if we should be blest with any. Your answer to this is impatiently expected by

Your real admirer.

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*From the Lady in Answer*

Sir,

I PERUSED your letter, and begin to be afraid that I have trampered with you too long, to conceal the real sentiments of my mind from one so justly entitled to know them as you are. My objections, I assure you, sir, were not the effect of levity, but, arose from the most mature deliberation; nor would I, on any account, impose on the man to whom I intended to give my hand, and consequently my heart. This would have been a crime, attended with more aggravating circumstances than any which you have mentioned, and less entitled to an excuse. Hypocrisy is the same under whatever character it appears; and the person who is guilty

of it in the smallest matter, will be equally so in the greatest. Your answer to my objections are altogether satisfactory, and I am now convinced that I may be your wife, and at the same time, at least a nominal mother to your children, as well as my own, yet I may still be named by the above appellation. However, as your person, company and conversation were agreeable, and your character stands unimpeached, I am almost inclined to try that life, to which I have been hitherto a stranger. It is, I assure you, with diffidence, and if attended with any unfavourable circumstances, may possibly be more my fault than yours. We cannot foresee future events, and are, therefore, obliged to leave them to the direction of an unerring Providence. I shall, therefore, not detain you any longer, but only inform you, that my brother was married yesterday to Miss Bright; may every happiness attend them both in time and in eternity! You will receive a letter enclosed from him, and you may be assured that I have not now any objection against being connected with you for life. The time fixed for that period depends entirely on your own choice and appointment, and I think you cannot reasonably desire more. All that I expect, nay, all that I desire, is only to be treated consistently with the professions you have already made. If so, I think I cannot fail of being as happy as is consistent with the state of affairs in this world, and I do not look for miracles. As you

will doubtless be much hurried before you set out for London, one letter more will be sufficient until I see you; in the mean time (as the Jews say) may you rest content and happy.

I am, &c.

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*The Brother's Letter*

Sir,

I know not of any gentleman who ever honoured me with his company, for whom I have a greater regard than yourself; and the agreeable hours we have spent together cannot be equalled unless they are repeated. When I read your first letter to my sister, I considered your proposal of marriage as the highest honour that possibly could be conferred on our family; and yet without partiality, I firmly believe that the woman to whom you have paid your addresses, has merit equal to any in the world. She returned from the boarding school about ten years ago, during which time she has superintended the affairs of my family, and conducted them with such prudence as is seldom met with in one of her years. Many offers have been made to her by fox-hunters in our neighbourhood, but their characters were so totally opposite to her sentiments, that she rejected them with the utmost disdain, although apparently beneficial My sister, sir, has much more

refined notions than to pay any more regard to affluence than what would procure her an independent subsistence; and too great a regard to her conscience than to sacrifice her peace of mind to enjoy the greatest earthly grandeur. To use her own words, she considers riches as laying her under additional obligation to act for the good of her fellow-creatures as a faithful steward of that Almighty Being who has declared that he will exact a strict account from his creatures, in what manner they have used those gifts which his unbounded liberality has bestowed. Her leisure hours have been spent in reading, and when I have met with her in the garden, or in the fields, she has constantly in her hand, either Milton, Thompson, or Young, but most frequently her *Bible*. It may possibly occur to your thoughts, that what I have said in commendation of a beloved sister, arises from a fraternal affection; but I do assure you, that I could not help repeating her many accomplishments, were you an utter stranger, and even a married man. A person destitute of virtue and sensibility might remain ignorant forever of my sister's merits; but by one of your worth, I doubt not but they will be estimated according to their real value. Light and darkness cannot dwell together; nor can those of opposite tempers ever be happy; but where there is an intellectual, as well as a corporeal union, nothing in this life can interfere with the rational enjoyments.

But I had almost forgot that I am writing to one who is well acquainted with these things; nor should I have enlarged so much, had I not regarded your friendship and interest on the one hand, and my sister's happiness on the other. Yet, not to detain you longer, my consent for a happy union is not only at your service, but, as I said before, I shall consider it as a very happy event; but I have not the least doubt of your ever repenting of your choice. I have heard that your secular affairs call for your attendance in New-York; when those are settled, I shall be glad to hear from you, and likewise of my sister and you being happily joined in marriage; in the mean time she is at my house, where you may freely correspond; and am

Your well-wisher.

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*From the gentleman, after his arrival in New-York, to the lady in the country.*

My Dear,

For so I must now call you: I arrived here last night, and embrace this opportunity of writing.

What a busy place is New York! what a variety of strange faces, and a continual hurry of business; the citizens acquiring fortunes by trade, whilst the gentry are squandering away those estates left them by their ancestors! but such has always been the

conduct of mankind in trading nations. One sows, another reaps, whilst a third enjoys the fruit of their labour. For my own part, I am neither fond of gaiety nor solitude. In all things there is a medium, which ought to be preferred to extremes. A sudden elevation to affluence or grandeur, and a sudden fall from either, are equally dangerous; the one too often plunges the person into all sorts of immorality, whilst the effect of the other is commonly despair. I would choose to spend three months every year in New-York, and the remainder in the country. This is my opinion; it is a more rational scheme than the present mode of continually hurrying from place to place, without ever relishing the pleasures of any. But I had almost forgot to whom I am writing. As soon as I have settled my affairs here, which will take up about three weeks, I intend going to Windsor to visit my daughters at the boarding-school, and from thence hasten to your brother's, when I hope that union will take place that must terminate only with our lives. I have employed my attorney to draw up articles of a jointure for you, and which I shall bring along with me, to be signed in the presence of your friends. I hope your brother and his spouse are well. I received his excellent letter, and heartily thank him for the contents.

I am, my dear,
Yours sincerely and affectionately.

*From a lover to his mistress, lately recovered from sickness.*

My Dear,

THIS day's post has just brought me the joyful news of your happy recovery. The indispensable necessity I was under of attending my business at this place, hindered me from beholding on a sick bed, all that is dear to me in the world; but I need not persuade you to believe this, as I hope you have had sufficient proofs of my fidelity; and what I have suffered on account of your illness may be felt, but not expressed. When I took the letter into my hand, I trembled; and possibly should have been deprived of courage to open it, had not the seal been red. To one oppressed with fear, the smallest matter yields a glimpse of hope. I opened the letter, and you may easily imagine what was my joy, when instead of reading an account of your death, it contained the delightful news of your recovery, written by your father. Ah! thought I, my charmer is still weak, or she would not have employed another hand. This led me to fear a relapse; but I hope that God, whose great mercy has preserved you hitherto, will perfect your recovery. You are constantly in my thoughts, and I pray for you every day. That I may once more be happy in seeing you, I have sent for my brother to manage my business during my absence. I expect him here in about three days, when nothing but sickness shall

prevent my coming. You will receive by the coach a small parcel containing some of the newest patterns, both of silk and laces, together with some other things. Such trifles are scarce worth mentioning; but I hope you will accept them as a testimony of my sincere love to her whom in a few months I hope to call my own. Present my duty to your honoured parents, and believe me to be, with the greatest sincerity,

Your ever affectionate lover.

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*From a rich young gentleman, to a beautiful young lady with no fortune.*

Miss Sophia,

It is a general reflection against the manners of the present age, that marriage is only considered as one of those methods by which avarice may be satisfied, and poverty increased; that neither the character nor accomplishments of the woman are much regarded: her merit being estimated by the thousands of her fortune. I acknowledge that the accusation is too true, and to that may be ascribed many unhappy matches we daily meet with; for how is it possible that those should ever have the same affection for each other, who were forced to comply with terms to which they had the utmost aversion, as if they had been allowed to consult

their own inclination, and give their hands where they have engaged their hearts!. For my own part, I have been always determined to consult my inclinations where there is the least appearance of happiness; and having an easy independency, am not anxious about increasing it; being well convinced, that in all states the middle one is best; I mean, neither poverty nor riches; which leads me to the discovery of a passion which I have long endeavoured to conceal.

The opportunities which I have had of conversing with you at Mrs. B's, have at last convinced me, that merit and riches are far from being connected, and that a woman may have those qualifications necessary to adorn her sex, although adverse fortune has denied her money. I am sure that all those virtues necessary to make me happy in the marriage state are centred in you; and whatever objection you have to my person, yet I hope there can be none to my character; and if you will consent to be mine, it shall be my constant study to make your life agreeable, and under the endearing character of husband, endeavour to supply your early loss of the best of parents. I shall expect your answer as soon as possible, for I wait for it with the utmost impatience.

I am your affectionate lover.

*The young lady's answer.*

Sir,

I RECEIVED your letter yesterday, and gratitude for the generous proposal which you have made, obliges me to thank you heartily for the contents.

As I have no objection to either your person or character, you will give me leave to deal sincerely, and state those things which at present bear great weight with me, and perhaps must ever remain unanswered, and hinder me from entering into that state against which I have not the least aversion.

You well know (at least I imagine so) that the proposal you have made to me, is a secret both to your relations and friends; and would you desire me to rush precipitately into the marriage state, where I have the greatest reason to fear that I should be looked upon with contempt, by those whom nature had connected me with? I should consider myself obliged to promote the happiness of my husband; and how consistent would a step of that nature be with such a resolution? You know that I was left an orphan, and had it not been for the pious care of Mrs. B., must have been brought up in a state of servitude. You know that I have no fortune; and were I to accept of your offer, it would lay me under such obligations as must destroy my liberty. Gratitude and love are two very different things. The one supposes a benefit received, whereas the other is a free act of the will. Sup-

pose me raised to the joint possession of your fortune, could I call it mine unless I had brought you something as an equivalent? or, have I not great reason to fear that you yourself may consider me as under obligations inconsistent with the character of a wife? I acknowledge the great generosity of your offer, and would consider myself highly honoured, could I prevail with myself to prefer to peace of mind the enjoyment of an affluent fortune. But as I have been very sincere in my answer, so let me beg that you will endeavour to eradicate a passion, which, if nourished longer, may prove fatal to us both.

I am, sir, with the greatest respect, &c.

---

*The gentleman's reply.*

Dear, dear Sophia,

Was it not cruel to start so many objections? or would you suppose me capable of so base an action, as to destroy your freedom and peace of mind? or do you think that I am capable of ever forgetting you, or being happy in the enjoyment of another? For God's sake, do not mention gratitude any more. Your many virtues entitle you to much more than I am able to give; but all that I have shall be yours. With respect to my relations, I have none to consult besides my mother and my uncle, and their consent, and even approbation, are already obtained.

You have often heard my mother declare, that she preferred my happiness, with a woman of virtue, to the possession of the greatest fortune; and though I forgot to mention it, yet I had communicated my sentiments to her before I had opened my mind to you. Let me beg that you will lay aside all unnecessary scruples, which only serve to make one unhappy who is already struggling under all the anxieties of real and genuine love. It is in your power, my dear, to make me happy, and none else can. I cannot enjoy one moment's rest till I have your answer, and then the happy day shall be fixed. Let me beg that you will not start any more objections, unless you are my real enemy: but your tender nature cannot suffer you to be cruel. Be mine, my dear, and I am yours for ever. My servant shall wait for the answer to your ever sincere lover, whose sole happiness is centred in you.

I am, &c.

---

*The answer.*

Sir,

I FIND that when one of your sex forms a resolution, you are determined to go through, whatever be the event. Your answer to my first objection, I must confess, is satisfactory. I wish I could say so of the others; but I find that if I must comply, I

shall be obliged to trust the remainder to yourself. Perhaps this is always the case, and even the most cautious have been deceived. However, sir, I have communicated the contents of your letter to Mrs. B., as you know she has been to me as a parent. She has not any objection, and I am at last resolved to comply. I must give myself up to you as a poor friendless orphan, and shall endeavour to act consistently with the rules laid down and enforced by our holy religion; and if you should so far deviate from the paths of virtue as to upbraid me with poverty, I have no friends to complain to but that God who is *the Father to the fatherless*. But I have a better opinion of you than to entertain any such fears. I have left the time to your own appointment, and let me beg that you will continue in the practice of that virtuous education which you have received. Virtue is its own reward, and I cannot be unhappy with the man who prefers the duties of religion to gaiety and dissipation.

I am yours sincerely.

---

*From a young lady to a gentleman, complaining of indifference.*

Sir,

HOWEVER light you may make of promises, yet I

am foolish enough to consider them as something more than trifles; and am likewise induced to believe, that the man who voluntarily breaks a promise, will not pay much regard to an oath; and if so, in what light must I consider your conduct? Did I not give you my promise to be yours, and had you no other reason for soliciting, than merely to gratify your vanity? a brutal gratification indeed, to triumph over the weakness of a woman, whose greatest fault was, that she loved you. I say loved you; for it was in consequence of that passion I first consented to become yours. Has your conduct, sir, been consistent with my submission, or with your own solemn profession? Is it consistent with the character of a gentleman, first to obtain a woman's consent, and afterward brag that he discarded her, and found one more agreeable to his wishes? Do not equivocate; I have too convincing proofs of your insincerity. I saw you yesterday walking with Miss Benson, and am informed that you have proposed marriage to her. Whatever you may think, sir, I have a spirit of disdain, and even resentment, equal to your ingratitude, and can treat the wretch with a proper indifference, who can make so slight a matter of the most solemn promises. Miss Benson may be your wife, but she will receive into her arms a perjured husband; nor can ever the superstructure be lasting, which is built on such a foun-

dation. I leave you to the stings of your own conscience.

I am the injured.

---

*The gentleman's answer.*

My Dear Angel,

For by that name I must still call you: has cruelty entered into your tender nature, or has some designing wretch imposed on your credulity? My dear, I am not what you have represented; I am neither false nor perjured. I never proposed marriage to Miss Benson—I never designed it; and my sole reason for walking with her was, that I had been on a visit to her brother, who you know is my attorney. And was it any fault in me to take a walk into the fields along with him and his sister? Surely prejudice itself cannot say so; but I am afraid you have been imposed on by some designing person, who had private views and private ends to answer by such baseness. But whatever may have been the cause, I am entirely innocent; and to convince you of my sincerity, beg that the day of marriage may be next week. My affections never so much as wander from the dear object of my love; in you are centred all my hopes of felicity; with you only can I be happy. Keep me not in misery one moment longer, by entertaining groundless jealousies

against one who loves you in a manner superior to the whole of your sex, and I can set at defiance even malice itself. Let me beg your answer by my servant, which will either make me happy or miserable. I have sent a small parcel by the bearer, which I hope you will accept as a convincing proof of my integrity; and am,

Yours for ever.

# PART IV.

# LETTERS ON FRIENDSHIP.

## LETTERS ON FRIENDSHIP.

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*To a friend, on his recovery from a dangerous illness.*

Dear Sir,

GIVE me leave to mingle my joy with that of all your friends and relations, in the recovery of your health, and to join with them to bless God for continuing to your numerous well-wishers the benefit of your useful and valuable life. May God Almighty long preserve you in health, and prosper all your undertakings, for the good of your worthy family, and the pleasure of all your friends and acquaintance, is the hearty prayer of, sir,

Your faithful friend and humble servant.

---

*On the same occasion.*

Good Sir,

I HAVE received with great delight, the good news of your recovery from the dangerous illness with

which it pleased God to afflict you. I most heartily congratulate you, and your good lady and family, upon it; and make it my prayer, that your late indisposition may be succeeded by such a renewal of health and strength, both of body and mind, as may make your life equally happy to yourself, as it must be to all who have the pleasure to know you. I could not avoid giving you the trouble, to testify the joy that affected my heart on the occasion; and to assure you, that I am, with the greatest affection and respect, sir,

Your faithful servant.

---

*An answer to the preceding.*

Dear Sir,

I GIVE you many thanks for your kind congratulations. My return of health will be the greater pleasure to me, if I can contribute in any measure to the happiness of my many good friends; and, particularly, to that of you and yours; for I assure you, sir, that nobody can be more than I am,

Your obliged humble servant.

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*From a gentleman to his friend, requesting a favour.*

Friday Evening.

My dear Friend,

You have frequently expressed your readiness to

serve me on all occasions, and I never doubted the sincerity of your professions.

An unforeseen circumstance has placed me in a situation of temporary embarrassment, and compels me to have recourse to some friend for assistance. I know no one more worthy that honourable title than yourself, and, therefore, without further ceremony, beg you to favour me with the loan of a hundred and fifty dollars for a few days, say a fortnight.

Should you ever have occasion to ask such accommodation, you will find me as ready to grant it. I will call on you to-morrow morning at ten.

Do not, however, put yourself to the slightest inconvenience; for if you have not the money by you, I will apply to my brother-in-law; though I assure you I prefer asking a favour of a friend.

Relations are curious on such occasions, and as I am not disposed to satisfy curiosity, I would avoid exciting it. Till then adieu.

Yours, etc.

---

*The friend's answer, complying.*

Saturday morning.

Dear Sir,

I AM sorry to hear that any circumstances should have placed you in so unpleasant a situation; but

at the same time I am glad to find an opportunity of convincing you that I am as ready to perform, as I have been to promise. Enclosed you have the amount, and I beg you will name your own time for payment.

I shall be glad to see you to-morrow, to dinner if you can; we dine at four.

Yours truly.

---

*The friend's answer, refusing.*

Monday morning.

Dear Sir,

I AM excessively sorry to hear that you are so unpleasantly situated, particularly as it is not in my power to offer you any assistance. I assure you, I would do it with the greatest pleasure, if it was possible; but our business has been very dull for some time past, and I have experienced several heavy losses.

I think if you were to apply to Mr. B., he would oblige you: he has always spoken highly of you, and I dare say can do you the favour without inconvenience. I wish I could, but unfortunately I cannot.

Yours, etc.

*Invitation.*

West Chester, May 16th, 1843.

My dear Sir,

HAVING heard that you and your amiable lady intend to honour this part of the country with your presence during the summer, I earnestly request that you will condescend to make my house your residence.

I have a suite of apartments entirely at your service, and shall feel happy in contributing to render your abode here agreeable.

We use no ceremony, and have very few visitors; therefore, if you have no prior engagement, I shall expect you.

If you are fond of fishing you will find good sport, as we have some well-stocked ponds in the neighbourhood, and an excellent trout stream not far off.

We have also a neat little theatre, and, generally, pretty good actors, so that if you can forget the Park and Niblo's Garden, you may pass an hour or two agreeably enough.

Such are the amusements we can offer you; I hope they may be sufficiently attractive to procure us the pleasure of your society.

Give me a line to inform me when I may expect you.

Present my respects to Mrs. S., and believe me,

Yours sincerely.

*Answer.*

New-York, June 1st, 1843.

Dear Sir,

I FEEL highly flattered by your very polite attention, and thank you sincerely for your kind invitation, which I accept on one condition, viz: that whenever business or pleasure may call you to our neighbourhood, you will give me an opportunity of acknowledging the obligation, by accepting a part of my house.

You will not find us troublesome inmates, we keep regular hours, and, consequently, do not like much company.

I am passionately fond of angling, and anticipate much pleasure on the banks of your trout-stream. My wife's amusements are perhaps more rational; she reads very much, and I flatter myself that Mrs. B. will find in her an agreeable companion.

We intend leaving town on the 16th; we shall sleep one night on the road, and hope to have the pleasure of seeing you all well on Friday evening, the 18th.

Present our respects to Mr. and Mrs. J., and our loves to all your amiable family.

Yours truly,

J H.

*From a gentleman going to London, to his friend.*

New-York, July 3d, 1843.

Dear James,

I HAVE waited several weeks in expectation of seeing you, but you have not condescended to give me a friendly call for some time; therefore, I must write, as I have not time to call on you. I have long had a desire to visit England, and a favourable opportunity has just presented itself. I do not, however, like to go alone, and as I have often heard you express a wish to see John Bull at home, you will perhaps do me the pleasure to accompany me. I intend to stay in London about two months, and am furnished with letters of introduction to some distinguished families. If you can arrange your business so as to set off on Monday week, I shall be glad; but if not, I will wait a few days for you.

Have the goodness to let me know as soon as possible; perhaps you will come and dine with me tomorrow, and talk the matter over; we dine at five. Bring your Lake's London Guide with you, as it will be necessary to consult it before we start. Farewell.

Yours, etc.,

W. S.

*Complaining of long silence*

Baltimore, September 6th, 1843.

Dear Eugenia,

I AM quite alarmed by your long silence; you promised me, on the day previous to your departure, that you would write frequently, and requested that I would do the same; I have written twice without receiving any answer; I know you too well to imagine you would neglect me, and, therefore, fear my letters have miscarried, or that you are ill. I beg you to answer immediately, and let me know every particular. I think you had better inquire at the post office if there are no letters for you; certainly you would have answered, if they had come to hand.

I send this by a gentleman who promises to deliver it into your hands; he will stay a few weeks in your town, and on his return will, with pleasure, bring any letters or parcels you may have to send; but do not make me wait till then for an answer. If you do, I shall be seriously angry. Adieu.

Yours ever,

AMELIA JONES.

---

*Answer.*

Washington, October 1st, 1843.

My very dear Amelia,

IT SEEMS as if an evil genius has for some time

exerted his influence over me. There is not anything I desire more ardently than to preserve and cultivate your friendship, and I fear (by an appearance of neglect) I have nearly lost it. Immediately on the receipt of your letter I inquired at the post-office, and was informed that two letters from Baltimore, addressed to me, had been delivered, during the last month, at our house, with the commercial letters. I, of course, requested my father to make inquiries in the counting-house, and after some search they were found in a drawer, among some loose papers.

I assure you I was exceedingly glad to find them, as I began to fear that my friend Amelia had forgotten me. You will, of course, acquit me of negligence, and I beg to assure you of my most cordial friendship. Excuse brevity in this, as I am so anxious to exculpate myself.

I will send you a long letter by your friend, and I hope you will often favour me with your charming epistles. Adieu, believe me eternally

Yours,

EUGENIA WISE.

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*Information on going to New-York.*

New London, June 3d, 1843.

Dear Sir,

AN opportunity of going to New-York has just

presented itself to me. As you have been there several times, and are, no doubt, acquainted with the different modes of travelling and of living there, I will thank you for a little advice on those subjects.

I intend to be as economical as possible, but at the same time to see all I can. I shall stay perhaps six weeks, or two months, and should like to know in what part of the town it would be most convenient for me to lodge. I hear that there are many hotels in Broadway; tell me what you think of them; perhaps you could also give me an idea how much the journey would cost me, and whether I had better procure gold before my departure. I should like also to take a few trifling presents for some friends to whom I am recommended; tell me what you think would be most acceptable. I intend to set off in about a week, and will thank you for an answer as soon as convenient.

I am, yours, etc.

P. S.—If I can execute any commissions for you, you have only to command me.

---

*From a gentleman in London.*

London, September 6th, 1843.

Dear J.,

I WRITE to you from this busy and overgrown metropolis, where every thing appears extraordi-

sary to me. I arrived, after a very pleasant voyage of twelve days, and landed at the Custom House, a very elegant building by the river's side Here I was obliged to wait some time to have my passport and luggage examined; after which I drove to a hotel, where I found very comfortable lodgings, for which, however, I pay very dear.

I am much pleased with the cleanliness of the English houses; every want, real or imaginary, seems to be anticipated; but I find myself rather lonely, not having yet formed any acquaintance. I shall, however, call to-morrow on a gentleman to whom I have a letter, and shall ask him to recommend me to a family where I can board and lodge.

I have this moment received, from the landlord of the hotel, an invitation to accompany him to Drury-Lane Theatre; so I must conclude, and will give you more particulars in my next.

As I could not send my letter by last night's post, I add a word to say I had a famous squeeze in entering the play-house. We went into the pit, in order to be as near as possible to the stage, and I was much surprised on seeing almost as many ladies and gentlemen in that part of the house but my friend tells me it is the custom in all the English theatres.

The interior arrangement is somewhat different from our theatres. The galleries are above the boxes: there are generally two; the price of the

upper one is one shilling, and of the other two shillings. There are no places in the Orchestra except at the Italian opera.

Upon the whole, I was pleased with the performance, though the continued shifting of scenes annoyed me a little. The English are very tenacious of having an exact representation of every spot where the action is supposed to take place.

I have an engagement for Windsor Castle tomorrow; I wish with all my heart you were here to make one of the party.

Yours ever.

---

*On Duelling.*

Charleston, August 6th, 1843

My very dear friend,

I HAVE this moment heard that you are engaged in an *affair of honour*, as it is generally called, but which, I think, "more honoured in the breach than the observance." I lose not a moment in addressing you a few lines, in the hope of dissuading you from an enterprise, the horrible consequences of which are incalculable.

I know not which is the offending party, but I know, that by meeting, with the ferocious attempt of sacrificing your adversary, to appease wound-

ed honour, you violate the laws both of God and man.

If your enemy has calumniated you, let your conduct, and not your sword, prove it; believe me, the celebrity that a man acquires by vanquishing in duels, deprives him of that which alone makes life happy: I mean peace of mind.

Suppose, on the other hand, that your adversary prevails, and that you are stretched on the field a lifeless corpse; contemplate, if you can, your agonized widow and distressed orphans; picture them to yourself in that wretched state; and then, if you can place yourself in a situation which may in a moment reduce them to it, I shall no more subscribe myself

Your sincere friend.

---

*Announcing the illness of a son.*

New-York, June 4th, 1843.

Madam,

I AM extremely sorry to be under the necessity of giving you unpleasant and afflicting news concerning your son William. He took cold about a fortnight ago, and in spite of every attention, it has increased and brought on a violent fever, under which he is now suffering severely. He has the best medical advice that can be procured; but I am sor-

ry to say he grows daily worse, and the physician has this morning declared him to be in a dangerous state. Do not, my dear madam, be displeased that I did not inform you sooner. I hoped it would have passed, and that he would have recovered before you knew he had been ill. My hopes are, however, disappointed, and I am compelled to send you the distressing intelligence.

I beg to assure you that nothing has been neglected, and that he is treated as if he were my own son. He wishes very much to see you, and says he has something to communicate. If you can come, we will accommodate you with a room, as long as you please to stay.

The doctor has this moment paid another visit, and says he observes a favourable change since morning. Had not my hopes been so often deceived, I would not send this, my anxiety, however, prompts me not to delay any longer. I earnestly hope that you may find him much better on your arrival. Believe me, madam,

Yours respectfully.

---

*Apology for not attending a party.*

Tuesday morning.

Dear Sir,

JUST as I was on the point of setting off yesterday,

with the anticipation of passing one of those very agreeable evenings one is always sure to spend at your house, some acquaintances that I have not seen for several years, arrived from the country: I, of course, could not leave them.

You will, I hope, consider that circumstance a sufficient apology for my absence; I will take the first opportunity of giving you a call.

Yours truly.

---

*To a gentleman, proposing a shooting excursion.*

Chester, August 24th, 1843.

Dear Samuel,

THE glorious season approaches: wo to partridges and pheasants! I am over head and ears in preparation, and my closet has all the appearance of an armory; do come and participate in the sport.

I promise you good amusement for a month at least, and if you like to bring a friend, he shall be equally welcome. I have just received two double-barrelled fowling-pieces, percussion locks; of course you are welcome to the use of one of them.

Bring with you a good stock of powder and shot, as I intend to make great havoc among the feathered race. Do not fail to bring your favourite dog.

*To excuse a person.*

New-York, October 1st, 1843.

I TAKE up my pen, dear Madam, in behalf of a person who has had the misfortune to offend you, and who requests me to endeavour to procure him an interview. He assures me that he shall be able to explain his conduct, and to convince you that he is more to be pitied than blamed.

I assure you, my dear madam, I would be the last person to advocate the cause of any one who had intentionally offended you; but the knowledge I have of my friend Mr. D., convinces me that he is incapable of it. If, therefore, you will condescend to allow him an opportunity of exculpating himself, I shall feel particularly happy in communicating the pleasing intelligence to him.

I am, dear madam, yours most respectfully.

---

*Answer.*

Sir,

AT your request, and in the hope of finding Mr. D. able to explain himself, you may say I shall be disengaged to-morrow at five.

*To a young man who is accustomed to break his word.*

Tuesday morning.

THE old story, never punctual, never keep your word! What do you think of yourself? and what do you suppose others think of you? The first question I leave you to answer; the second might perhaps embarrass you; therefore, I will tell you what they think, or, at least, what they say. Last night, for instance, your friend Miss S. asked me when I had seen you. I told her it was some time since, but that I expected you that evening. "And why," said she, "do you expect him this evening?" "Because, Miss, he promised to come." She laughed heartily at the word *promise*; and asked me how I could possibly be so silly as to rely on your promises, which she compared to a weathercock.

If this have no effect upon you, you are past redemption. A man may be callous to the railleries of his male acquaintance; but to be insensible to the poignant satire of the ladies, is what I cannot conceive. I have made a promise that you will assist at an amateur concert on Friday at Mr. N's. Now, though you have so little regard for your own promises, I hope you will have some consideration for mine, and, for once in your life, be punctual. I shall be in your neighbourhood to-morrow morning, and will call on you.

Yours, etc.

*To a young man, on early rising.*

Sunday, 6 o'clock, morning.

Dear Somnus,

TWICE in the course of the last week I called at your lodgings at 9 o'clock in the morning, and was told you were not stirring. What, in the name of health! can induce a young man to lie in bed till that hour, at this beautiful season of the year? You will, perhaps, say you have nothing to do, but I will not admit that as an excuse. Every man who does not abandon himself to sloth, can find something to do. Have you no books to improve your mind? Are there no walks to offer you wholesome exercise? You are not aware how conducive early rising is to health, and how very debilitating, both to mind and body, is a habit of lying late in bed. It shortens life in two ways: first, it undermines the health, and consequently hastens death; and certainly one cannot be said to be enjoying life, when one lies snoring in bed. Pluck up courage, my boy, rise a few minutes earlier every morning; believe me you will soon become accustomed to it, and wonder that you could have wasted so much of your life. You must not plead going to bed late; that is no excuse, it is worse than none; because nothing requires your sitting up late. I shall call and pull you out of bed to-morrow at six o'clock.

*The following letter on friendship was written by a gentleman lately deceased, and found amongst his papers.*

My dear Friend,

It was a strange notion of Paschal, that he would never admit any man to share of his friendship. Had that great man been a misanthrope, or an enemy to his fellow-creatures, I should not have been much surprised; but as his love to mankind extended as far as either his knowledge or influence, it is necessary to consider his reasons for a conduct apparently so strange. Paschal had such elevated notions of the Deity on the one hand, and so low an opinion of human nature on the other, that he thought, if he placed his affection on any created being, it would be a sort of insult to the Creator, and a robbing him of that worship which was due to him alone. But whatever were the notions of that great man, yet there is such a thing as real friendship, and there is also a necessity for it. It is true, indeed, that God is our only friend, and that on him our affections ought principally to be fixed. But those who are acquainted with human nature, well know that we are such a composition of flesh and spirit, that however we may wish to keep up an intercourse with the Deity, yet our inclinations are such, that we are more desirous of being conversant with those of our own species, to

whom at all times we can be able to unbosom ourselves.

Friendship is as old as the first formation of society, and there is scarce one ancient writer now extant, who has not said something in praise of it. Of this we have a fine example in the story of David and Jonathan, as recorded in the second book of Samuel. In the same sacred oracles we are told that love is stronger than death, and even the great Redeemer of the world had a beloved disciple.

The pious and ingenious Dr. Watts has finely described friendship in one of his poems, which I doubt not but you have read:

Friendship, thou charmer of the mind,
  Thou sweet deluding ill;
The brightest moments mortals find,
  And sharpest pains we feel.
Fate has divided all our shares
  Of pleasure and of pain;
In love, the friendship and the cares
  Are mixed and join'd again.

The same ingenious author in another place says,

'Tis dangerous to let loose our love,
  Beneath the eternal Fair.

But whatever the wise or learned may say, yet

we know that man is a social being, and consequently has a capacity, and even a desire for friendship. Friendship is in its own nature so necessary, that I know not how a social being can exist without it. Are we by any providential occurrence raised from poverty to affluence? to whom can we communicate the delightful news but our friend? On the other hand, are we reduced from the highest pinnacle of grandeur to the most abject state of poverty? to whom can we look for consolation but God and our friend? Indeed there is not one state or condition in life where friendship is not necessary. What wretched mortals would men be, were they not endowed with so noble a principle!

Friendship is of a very delicate nature, and either the happiness or misery of both parties may, in some sense, be said to depend on it. Friendship is somewhat like marriage, it is made for life, or as Cæsar said, "The die is cast." Mrs. Rowe, in one of her letters to the Countess of Hertford, says, "When I contract a friendship, it is for eternity;" her notions were already elevated, and the chief business of her life seems to have been promoting the interest of her fellow-creatures. Friendship obliges the parties engaged to lay open their minds to each other; there must not be any concealment. There is not an endearing attribute of the Deity, not an amiable quality in man, but what is included in the

word friendship. Benevolence, mercy, compassion, &c. are only parts of it.

From all this we may learn, that great care ought to be had in the choice of friends; and should they unhappily betray the sacred trust reposed in them, yet we ought not to pursue them with unrelenting fury.

In the course of my experience I remember two instances of the breach of friendship, which were attended with very different effects. Two gentlemen contracted a friendship for each other, which lasted some years; at last one of them unhappily revealed a secret to his wife, who told it to the wife of the other, in consequence of which an unhappy division took place in the family of the latter. The injured person upbraided his friend with infidelity, told him of the fatal effects occasioned by this imprudence; but (says he) although I cannot be your friend any longer, yet I will never be your enemy. My heart will pity you, whilst my hand shall be open to relieve your necessities. Such a declaration was consistent with the prudence of a man, and the piety of a Christian: but that of the other was of a nature totally opposite, and, in my opinion, truly diabolical. A difference of a similar nature happened, attended with the like circumstances; but the injured person, instead of sympathizing with the weakness of his friend, pursued him with unrelenting cruelty, nor ever ceased until he had ac-

complished his ruin, and even triumphed over it. You may make what comments you please; I can only assure you that both are facts.—How different, my friend, has our conduct to each other been! during these thirty years no breach has ever happened; and it seems as new this day as at the beginning As this is probably the last letter you will ever see in my hand-writing, accept of my sincere thanks for the many benefits I have received from your faithful admonitions, and your benevolent consolations, and when we meet in the regions of bliss, our happiness will then remain uninterrupted.

I am yours sincerely

---

*From a lady to her friend, whose lover had basely left her and married another.*

My dear Friend,

Our expectation of happiness is generally so ill placed, that it is no wonder we meet with perpetual disappointments. When our choice arises from passion, we have so very blind a guide as will inevitably lead us to destruction; for though love appears then gentlest, yet our affections are so much the right of our Almighty Creator, that as often as we fix them immoderately upon any of the fading objects here below we are certainly guilty of sa-

crilege to the divine goodness, which fault is commonly punished by the very thing we dote on. This, I doubt not, has been your case, and not yours alone, for soon or late few escape that mischief, especially amongst our weaker sex, whose tender nature leaves them most exposed to ruin; and though they see others shipwrecked before their eyes, will yet venture out to sea on the same bottom, insensible of danger till they perish, and often fall unpitied.

Men have a thousand advantages over us, but in the affairs of courtship, they add cunning to all their other accomplishments, and are as zealous to deceive, as if their lives would be made happy by the cheat. However, they will find it a sad mistake, at least if perjury is to be accounted for; although your false traitor, like many others, may look on that time as at a great distance. But I suppose he thinks himself excused as being more knave than fool, which title indeed is so highly due to him, that I believe none will do him such manifest wrong as to dispute it; and I am sure the blacker he appears, the greater reason you have to bless that Providence which permitted him to break the contract; for, without doubt, he that proved so ill a lover to the best of mistresses, would have made an intolerable husband to the best of wives; and ill usage would have cost you more than his infi-

delity. I am sensible a heart so generous and constant as yours, cannot easily efface the deep impression he has made in it; that must be the work of time, with God's assistance, which I hope will never fail you. I do assure you, I am deeply touched with every thing that concerns you, nor is it without great regret that I submit to my unhappy circumstances detaining me from being the companion of your melancholy hours, which I should endeavour with all my power to divert.

You say it is a daily aggravation to your trouble, to think you suffered yourself to be so easily imposed on; but that, as I told you before, is our common fate, although all impostors are not equally industrious to be wicked; and you ought not to condemn your own judgment for want of sagacity to discover a cheat, as it would be to arraign the conduct of almost all the human race.

Pardon me, dear madam, for troubling you so far. Indeed, I might have told you at first what I must mention now, and what you know already, that He only can give us comfort, whom we seldom regard but when we are driven to it by necessity. Solomon, who had tried all the alluring charms of love and beauty, whose quality and riches gave him an opportunity to gratify every inclination, without any bounds to his wishes, could call them all "vanity and vexation of spirit." It is no wonder, then,

if every one of us discover the same truth to our own cost. Let us, therefore, resolve, as much as we can, to submit our wills to the will of our heavenly Father, who sees all our actions, and has so decreed, that our way to everlasting happiness should lie through the wilderness of affliction.

I am, dear madam, your sincere friend.

# PART V.

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# MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS

## MISCELLANEOUS LETTERS.

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*To a young lady on the amusements of the female sex.*

My dear Girl,

EVERY period of life, my worthy girl, has amusements which are natural and proper to it. You may indulge the variety of your taste in these, while you keep within the bounds of that propriety which is suitable to your sex.

Some amusements are conducive to health, as various kinds of exercise; some are connected with qualities really useful, as different kinds of women's work, and all the domestic concerns of a family; some are elegant accomplishments, as dress, dancing, music, and drawing. Such books as improve your understanding, enlarge your knowledge, and cultivate your taste, may be considered in a higher point of view than mere amusements. There are a variety of others, which are neither useful nor ornamental, such as play of different kinds

I would particularly recommend to you those exercises that oblige you to be much abroad in the open air, such as walking and riding on horseback. These will give vigour to your constitution and a bloom to your complexion. If you accustom yourself to go abroad always in carriages, you will soon become so enervated, as to be unable to go out of doors without them. They are like most articles of luxury, useful and agreeable when judiciously used; but, when habitual, they become both insipid and pernicious.

An attention to your health is a duty you owe to yourself and your friends. Bad health seldom fails to have an influence on the spirits and temper. The finest geniuses, the most delicate minds, have very frequently a correspondent delicacy of bodily constitution, which they are too apt to neglect. Their luxury lies in reading and late hours, equally enemies to health and beauty. But though good health be one of the greatest blessings of life, never make a boast of it, but enjoy it in grateful silence. We so naturally associate the idea of female softness and delicacy with a correspondent delicacy of constitution, that, when a woman speaks of her great strength, her extraordinary appetite, her ability to bear excessive fatigue, we recoil at the description in a way she is little aware of.

The intention of your being taught needle-work, knitting, and such like, is not on account of the in-

trinsic value of all you can do with your hands, which is trifling; but to enable you to judge more perfectly of that kind of work, and to direct the execution of it in others. Another principal end is to enable you to fill up in a tolerably agreeable way some of the many solitary hours you must necessarily pass at home. It is a great article in the happiness of life, to have your pleasures as independent of others as possible. By continually gadding abroad in search of amusement, you lose the respect of all your acquaintances, whom you oppress with those visits, which by a more discreet management might have been courted.

The domestic economy of a family is entirely a woman's province, and furnishes a variety of subjects for the exertion both of good sense and good taste. If you ever come to have the charge of a family, it ought to engage much of your time and attention; nor can you be excused from this by any extent of fortune, though, with a narrow one, the ruin that attends the neglect of it may be more immediate.

I am at the greatest loss what to advise you in regard to books. There is no impropriety in reading history, or cultivating any art or science to which genius or accident leads you. The whole volume of nature lies open to your eye, and furnishes an infinite variety of entertainment. If I were sure that nature had given you such strong

principles of taste and sentiments as would remain with you, and influence your future conduct, with the utmost pleasure would I endeavour to direct your reading in such a way as might form that taste to the utmost perfection of truth and elegance. But when I reflect how easy it is to warm a girl's imagination, and how difficult, deeply and permanently to affect her heart; how readily she retires into every refinement of sentiment, and how easily she can sacrifice them to vanity or convenience; I think I may very probably do you an injury by artificially creating a taste, which, if nature never gave it to you, would only embarrass your future conduct. I do not want to make you any thing; I want to know what nature has made you, and to perfect you upon her plan. I do not wish you to have sentiments that might perplex you; I wish you to have sentiments that might steadily and uniformly guide you, and such as your heart so thoroughly approves that you would not forego them for any consideration this world could offer.

Dress is an important article in female life; the love of dress is natural to your sex, and, therefore, it is proper and reasonable. Good sense will regulate your expense in it, and good taste will direct you to dress in such a way as to conceal any blemish, and set off their beauties to the greatest advantage. But much delicacy and judgment are required in the application of this rule. A fine woman

shows her charms to most advantage, when she seems most to conceal them. The finest bosom in nature is not so fine as what imagination forms. The most perfect elegance of dress appears always the most easy, and the least studied

Do not confine your attention to dress, to your public appearance. Accustom yourself to an habitual neatness, so that in the most careless undress, in your most unguarded hours, you may have no reason to be ashamed of your appearance. You will not easily believe how much we consider your dress as expressive of your character. Vanity, liberty, slovenliness, folly, appear through it. An elegant simplicity is an equal proof of taste and delicacy. In dancing, the principal parts you are to attend to, are ease and grace. I would have you dance with spirit, but never allow yourself to be so far transported with mirth, as to forget the delicacy of your sex. Many a girl, dancing in the gaiety and innocence of her heart, is thought to discover a spirit she little dreams of.

I know of no entertainment, that gives such a pleasure to a person of sentiment and humour as the theatre. But I am sorry to say, there are few English comedies a lady can see, without a shock to delicacy. You cannot readily suspect the comments gentlemen make on your behaviour on such occasions. Men are often best acquainted with the most worthless of your sex, and from them too readi-

ly form their judgment of the rest. A virtuous girl often hears very indelicate things with a countenance no ways embarrassed, because, in truth, she does not understand them. Yet this is most ungenerously ascribed to that command of features, and that ready presence of mind, which you are thought to possess in a degree far beyond us; or, by still more malignant observance, it is ascribed to hardened effrontery.

Sometimes a girl laughs with all the simplicity of unsuspected innocence, for no other reason, but being infected with other people's laughing; she is then believed to know more than she should do. If she does happen to understand an improper thing, she suffers a very complicated distress; she feels her modesty hurt in the most sensible manner, and, at the same time, is ashamed of appearing conscious of the injury. The only way to avoid these inconveniences is never to go to a play that is particularly offensive to delicacy. Tragedy subjects you to no such distress. Its sorrows will soften and ennoble your heart.

I need say little about gaming, as I flatter myself you have no relish for it. It is a ruinous and incurable vice; and, as it leads to all the selfish and turbulent passions, is peculiarly odious in your sex. I have no objection to your playing a little at any kind of game, as a variety in your amusements, provided, that what you can possibly lose is such a

trifle, as can neither interest nor hurt you. In this, as well as in all important points of conduct, show a determined resolution and steadiness. This is not, in the least, inconsistent with the softness and gentleness so amiable in your sex. On the contrary, it gives that spirit to a mild and sweet disposition, without which it is apt to degenerate into insipidity. To conclude, it makes you respectable in your own eyes and dignifies you in ours.

I am, &c

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*To a young gentleman on his entering into the world, with directions how to conduct himself.*

My dear Friend,

YOUR apprenticeship is near out, and you are soon to set up for yourself; that approaching moment is a critical one for you, and an anxious one for me. A tradesman, who would succeed in his way, must begin by establishing a character of integrity and good manners. Without the former, nobody will go to his shop at all; without the latter, nobody will go there twice. This rule does not exclude the fair arts of trade. He may sell his goods at the best price he can, within certain bounds. He may avail himself of the humour, the whims, and the fantastical tastes of his customers; but what he warrants to be good must be really so; what he seri-

ously asserts must be true; or his first fraudulent practices will soon end in a bankruptcy. It is the same in higher life, and in the great business of the world! A man who does not solidly establish, and really deserve, a character of truth, probity, good manners, and good morals, at his first setting out in the world, may impose, and shine like a meteor for a very short time, but will very soon vanish, and be extinguished with contempt. People easily pardon in young men the common irregularities of the senses, but they do not forgive the depravity of the heart. The heart never grows better by age: I fear worse, always harder. A young liar will be an old one; and a young knave will only be a greater knave as he grows older. But should a bad young heart, accompanied with a good head, (which by the way is very seldom the case,) really reform in a more advanced age, from a consciousness of its folly as well as of its guilt, such a conversion would only be thought prudential and political, but never sincere. I hope in God, and I verily believe, that you want no moral virtue. Your character in the world must be built upon that solid foundation, or it will soon fall, and upon your own head. You cannot, therefore, be too careful, too nice, too scrupulous, in establishing this character at first; upon which your whole depends. Let no conversation, no example, no fashion, no silly desire of seeming to be above what most knaves and many fools call

prejudices, ever tempt you to avow, excuse, extenuate, or laugh at, the least breach of morality; but show upon all occasions, and take all occasions to show a detestation and abhorrence of it. There, though young, you ought to be strict; and there only, while young, it becomes you to be strict and severe. But there too spare the persons while you lash the crimes. All this relates, as you may easily judge, to the vices of the heart; such as lying, fraud, envy, malice, detraction, &c., and I do not extend it to the little frailties of youth, flowing from high spirits and warm blood. It would ill become you, at your age, to declaim against them, and sententiously censure a gallantry, an accidental excess of the table, a frolic, an inadvertency. No, keep as free from them yourself as you can, but say nothing against them in others. They certainly mend by time, often by reason; and a man's worldly character is not affected by them, provided it be pure in all other respects.

To come now to a point of much less, yet of very great consequence, at your first setting out. * Be upon your guard against vanity, the common failing of inexperienced youth; but particularly against that kind of vanity that dubs a man a coxcomb. It is not to be imagined by how many ways vanity defeats its own purposes.

One man decides peremptorily upon every subject, betrays his ignorance upon many, and shows

a disgusting presumption upon the rest. Another desires to appear successful among the women. He hints at the encouragement he has received from those of the most distinguished rank and beauty, and intimates a particular connexion with some one; if it is true, it is ungenerous; if false, it is infamous. But, in either case, he destroys the reputation he wants to get. Some flatter their vanity by little extraneous objects, which have not the least relation to themselves, such as being descended from, related to, or acquainted with, people of distinguished merit and eminent characters. They talk perpetually of their grandfather such a one, their uncle such a one, and their intimate friend, Mr. such a one, whom possibly they are hardly acquainted with. But admitting it all to be as they would have it, what then? Have they the more merit for those accidents? Certainly not. On the contrary, their taking them up adventitiously proves their want of intrinsic merit; a rich man never borrows. Take this rule for granted, as a never-failing one, that you must never seem to affect the character in which you have a mind to shine. Modesty is the only sure bait, when you angle for praise. The affectation of courage will make even a brave man pass only for a bully; as the affectation of wit will make a man pass for a coxcomb. By this modesty I do not mean timidity or awkward bashfulness. On the contrary, be inwardly firm

and steady, know your own value, whatever it may be, and act upon that principle; but take great care to let nobody discover that you do not know your own value. Whatever real merit you have, other people will discover; and people always magnify their own discoveries, as they lessen those of others.

For God's sake, revolve all these things seriously in your thoughts before you launch out alone into the world. Recollect the observations which you have yourself made upon mankind, compare and connect them with my instructions, and then act systematically and consequentially from them. Lay your little plan now, which you will hereafter extend and improve by your own observations, and by the advice of those who never mean to mislead you. I am

Your faithful and affectionate friend.

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*To a young gentleman on the art of pleasing.*

My dear Friend,

AIR, address, manners, and graces, are of such infinite advantage to whoever has them, and so peculiarly and essentially necessary for you, that now, as the time of our meeting draws near, I tremble for fear I should not find you possessed of them; and, to tell you the truth, I doubt you are not yet sufficiently convinced of their importance. As I

open myself, without the least reserve, whenever I think that my doing so can be of any use to you, I will give you a short account of myself. When I first came out into the world, which was of the age that you are of now, so that (by the way) you have got the start of me in that important article by two or three years at least; at nineteen I left the University of Cambridge, where I was an absolute pedant. When I talked my best, I quoted Horace; when I aimed at being facetious, I quoted Marshal; and, when I had a mind to be a fine gentleman, I talked Ovid. I was convinced that none but the ancients had common sense; that the classics contained every thing that was either necessary, useful, or ornamental to men. With these excellent notions I went first to the Hague, where, by the help of several letters of recommendation, I was soon introduced into all the best company; and where I very soon discovered, that I was totally mistaken in almost every one notion I had entertained. Fortunately I had a strong desire to please, (the mixed result of good nature, and a vanity by no means blamable) and was sensible that I had nothing but the desire. I, therefore, resolved, if possible, to acquire the means too. I studied minutely the dress, the air, the manner, the address and the turn of conversation of all those whom I found to be the people in fashion, and most generally allowed to please. I imitated them as well as

I could. If I heard that one was reckoned remarkably genteel, I carefully watched his dress, motions, and attitudes, and formed my own upon them. When I heard of another whose conversation was agreeable and engaging, I listened and attended to the turn of it. I addressed myself to all the most fashionable fine ladies; confessed, and laughed with them at my own awkwardness, and recommending myself as an object for them to try their skill in forming. By these means and with a passionate desire of pleasing every body, I came by degrees to please some; and I can assure you, that what little figure I have made in the world, has been much more owing to that passionate desire I had of pleasing universally, than to any intrinsic merit or sound knowledge I might ever have been master of. My passion for pleasing was so strong, (and I am glad it was so,) that I own to you I wished to make every woman I saw in love with me, and every man I met with admire me. Without this passion for the object, I should never have been so attentive to the means; and I own I cannot conceive how it is possible for any man of good nature or good sense to be without this passion. Does not good nature incline us to please all those we converse with, of whatever rank or station they may be? And does not good sense and common observation show of what infinite use it is to please? Moreover, at your age, I would not have contented

myself with barely pleasing; I wanted to shine and to distinguish myself in the world as a man of fashion as well as of business. And that ambition or vanity, call it what you will, was a right one; it hurt nobody, and made me exert whatever talents I had. It is the spring of a thousand right and good things.

Whatever is worth doing at all, is worth doing well, and nothing can be done well without attention. Custom has made dancing sometimes necessary for a young man; therefore mind it while you learn it, that you may learn to do it well, and not be ridiculous, though in a ridiculous act. Dress is of the same nature. You must dress; therefore attend to it; not in order to avoid singularity, and consequently ridicule. Take great care always to be dressed like the reasonable people of your own age, in the place where you are, whose dress is never spoken of one way or other, as either too negligent or too much studied. Dress is one of the various ingredients that contribute to the art of pleasing; it pleases the eyes, at least.

Whenever you find yourself engaged insensibly in favour of any body, of no superior merit or distinguished talents, examine, and see what it is that has made those impressions upon you, and you will find that it is that gentleness of manners, that air and address, which I have often recommended to you; and from thence draw this obvious conclusion,

that what pleases you in them will please others in you: for we are all made of the same clay, though some of the lumps are a little finer, and some a little coarser; but, in general, the surest way to judge of others is to examine and analyze one's self, thoroughly. When we meet, I will assist you in that analysis, in which every man wants some assistance against his own self-love. Adieu.

# PART VI.

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# CARDS OF COMPLIMENT,

## LETTERS OF INVITATION, &c.

# CARDS OF COMPLIMENT,

## LETTERS OF INVITATION, ETC.

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*Ordinary invitation to a gentleman's party.*

A. B. requests the pleasure of Mr. C's company on Thursday evening next, at eight o'clock.

The favour of an early answer is requested.

No. 26 Malvern Street, Feb. 13, 1843.

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*Answer.*

J. C. accepts with pleasure Mr. B's polite invitation for Thursday evening next.

Oakley Street, Feb. 14, 1843.

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*Lady's invitation to a Soiree.*

Mrs. George Martin,
At Home,
Thursday Evening, March 3d, at eight o'clock.

*Invitation to a music party.*

Dear Sir,

On Tuesday we have a select musical party. We shal. feel extremely flattered if you will favour us with the powerful assistance of your brilliant talents. Do not disappoint us.

Yours, etc.

Friday evening.

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*Answer.*

The pleasure, my dear sir, of passing an evening in the agreeable society I always meet at your house, prompts me to accept your kind invitation; and if I can in any way render myself useful, you have only to command.

Yours truly.

Saturday morning.

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*Invitation to spend the day*

My dear Cousin,

I am commissioned by mamma to inquire if my aunt will be disengaged to-morrow, as she would be very happy if she would come and spend the day with us, and, of course, bring you with her. Pray

use all your influence with my dear aunt, and send a favourable answer to

Your affectionate cousin.

Tuesday.

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*Answer.*

It is with great pleasure, dear cousin, that I hasten to inform you that mamma has consented to come, and desires me to say, we shall be at your house early to-morrow. I will bring my music book, and we will have some duetts.

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*Invitation to an assembly.*

Mr. Johnson presents his respectful compliments to Miss Chambers, requests the honour of her hand for the assembly to-morrow evening.

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*Answer.*

Miss Chambers thanks Mr. Johnson for his politeness, is sorry she cannot accept his offer, being already engaged.

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*To tea and cards.*

Miss W——'s respectful compliments to Mrs.

D——, begs the honour of her company this evening to tea and cards.

*Notice of a call.*

If Mrs. L—— is disengaged this evening, Mrs. B—— will call on her, as she wishes to consult her on an affair of particular importance.

*Request for information.*

Mr. S——'s compliments to Mrs. F——, will be much obliged if she will send her music-master's address, as he wishes to take a few lessons during the spring

# PART VII.

# LETTERS

FROM

# DISTINGUISHED PERSONS.

# LETTERS

## FROM DISTINGUISHED PERSONS CELEBRATED FOR THEIR SKILL IN EPISTOLARY WRITING.

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*Mr. B. Franklin to B. Vaughan, Esq.*

Passy, Sept. 7, 1784.

My dear Friend,

THIS will be delivered to you by Count Mirabeau, son of the Marquis of that name, author of *L'Ami des Hommes*. This gentleman is esteemed here, and I recommend him to your civilities and counsels, particularly with respect to the printing of a piece he has written on the subject of *hereditary nobility*, on occasion of the order of Cincinnati lately attempted to be established in America, which cannot be printed here. I find that some of the best judges think it extremely well written, with great clearness, force, and elegance. If you can recommend him to an honest reasonable bookseller, that

will undertake it, you will do him service, and perhaps some to mankind, who are too much bigotted in many countries to that kind of imposition. I had formerly almost resolved to trouble you with no more letters of recommendation: but I think you will find this gentleman to possess talents, that may render his acquaintance agreeable.

With sincere esteem, I am ever, my dear friend, yours most affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

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*Mr. B. Franklin to George Wheatly, Esq.*

Passy, May 19, 1785.

Dear old Friend,

I RECEIVED the very good letter you sent me by my grandson, together with your resemblance, which is placed in my chamber, and gives me great pleasure. There is no trade, they say, without returns, and, therefore, I am punctual in making those you have ordered.

I intended this should have been a long epistle, but I am interrupted, and can only add, that I am ever yours most affectionately

B. FRANKLIN.

*B. Franklin to the Honourable David Hartley.*

Passy, July 5, 1785.

I CANNOT quit the coasts of Europe without taking leave of my ever dear friend Mr. Hartley. We were long fellow-laborers in the best of all works, the work of peace. I leave you still in the field, but having finished my day's task, I am going home *to go to bed.* Wish me a good night's rest, as I do you a pleasant evening. Adieu! and believe me ever, yours most affectionately,

B. FRANKLIN.

*In his 80th year.*

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*B. Franklin to His Excellency General Washington.*

Philadelphia, Sept. 20, 1785.

Dear Sir,

I AM just arrived from a country, where the reputation of General Washington runs very high, and where every body wishes to see him in person; but being told that it is not likely he will ever favour them with a visit, they hope at least for a sight of his perfect resemblance, by means of their principal statuary, Mr. Houdon, whom Mr. Jefferson and myself agreed with to come over for the purpose of taking a bust, in order to make the intended statue for the State of Virginia. He is here, but the materials and instruments he sent down the

Seine from Paris not being arrived at Havre when we sailed, he was obliged to leave them, and is now busied in supplying himself here. As soon as that is done, he purposes to wait on you in Virginia, as he understands there is no prospect of your coming hither, which would indeed make me very happy; as it would give me the opportunity of congratulating with you personally on the final success of your long and painful labours in the service of our country, which have laid us all under eternal obligations With the greatest and most sincere esteem and respect, I am, dear sir, your most obedient and most humble servant.

B FRANKLIN.

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*Horace Walpole to the Hon. Horace Mann.*

Strawberry Hill, Sept. 13th, 1763.

The administration is resettled: the Opposition does not come in; and the old ministers have resumed their functions. The Duke of Bedford, who had formerly advised to invite Mr. Pitt to court, finding himself omitted in Mr. Pitt's list, is cordially united, nay, incorporated with the administration; he has kissed hands for President of the Council. Lord Sandwich is the new Secretary of State, Lord Egmont the new head of the Admiralty, and Lord Hillsborough the new First Lord of Trade; for Lord

Shelburne, whom I mentioned to you in my last, has resigned in the midst of these bustles. Many reasons are given, but the only one that people choose to take is, that, thinking Mr. Pitt must be minister, and finding himself tolerably obnoxious to him, he is seeking to make his peace at any rate. This concussion has produced one remarkable event, the total removal of Lord Bute, which Mr. Grenville and Lord Halifax made the absolute sine-quânon of their re-acceptance. The favourite earl has given it under his hand that he will go abroad. Thus ends this foolish drama—not its consequences, for the flames he has lighted up will not be extinguished soon.

I could tell you a great deal of what is reported of the dialogue in the closet, but not a circumstance which is not denied on one side or the other, for though there were but two interlocutors, there is a total disagreement in the relation. Parties will not meet in better humour next session for this abortive negotiation: the paper war is rekindled with violence, but produces no wit; nay, scarce produces the bulk of a pamphlet, for the fashionable warfare at present is carried on by anonymous letters in the daily newspapers, which die as suddenly as other lies of the day. This skirmishing is sharp and lively, but not very entertaining.

I have not a syllable of other news to send you. You must take this rather as a codicil to my last

letter than as pretending to be a letter itself. The Parliament, I suppose, will not meet till after Christmas, and till then little material is likely to happen; unless some notable death should intervene, which, considering the tottering condition of some principal performers, is not unlikely. An old statesman who has November to pass through in his way to preferment, may chance never to arrive at it. Adieu!

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*The Hon. Horace Walpole to the Hon. H. S. Conway.*

Strawberry Hill, May 1, 1763.

I FEEL happy at hearing your happiness; but, my dear Harry, your vision is much indebted to your long absence, which

Makes bleak rocks and barren mountains smile.

I mean no offence to Park Place; but the bitterness of the weather makes me wonder how you can find the country tolerable now. This is a May-day for the latitude of Siberia! The milkmaids should be wrapped in *the motherly comforts of a swan-skin petticoat.* In short, such hard words have passed between me and the north wind to-day, that, according to the language of the times, I was very near abusing it for coming from Scotland, and to imputing it to Lord Bute. I don't know whether

should not have written a North Briton against it, if the printers were not all sent to Newgate, and Mr. Wilkes to the Tower—ay, to the Tower, *tout de bon*. The new ministry are trying to make up for their ridiculous insignificance by a *coup d' eclat*. As I came hither yesterday, I do not know whether the particulars I have heard are genuine; but in the Tower he certainly is, taken up by Lord Halifax's warrant for treason: vide the North Briton of Saturday was se'nnight. It is said he refused to obey the warrant, of which he asked and got a copy from the two messengers, telling them he did not mean to make his escape, but sending to demand his *habeas corpus*, which was refused. He then went to Lord Halifax, and thence to the Tower; declaring they should get nothing out of him but what they knew. All his papers have been seized. Lord Chief Justice Pratt, I am told, finds great fault with the wording of the warrant.

I don't know how to execute your commission for books of architecture, nor care to put you to expense, which I know will not answer. I have been consulting my neighbour, young Mr. Thomas Pitt, my present architect: we have all books of that sort here, but cannot think of one which will help you to a cottage or a green house. For the former, you should send me your idea, your dimensions; for the latter, don't you rebuild your old one, though in another place? A pretty green-house!

never saw; nor, without immoderate expense, can it well be an agreeable object. Mr. Pitt thinks a mere portico without a pediment, and windows removable in summer, would be the best plan you could have. If so, don't you remember something of that kind, which you liked, at Sir Charles Cotterel's at Rousham? But a fine green-house must be on a more exalted plan. In short, you must be more particular, before I can be at all so.

I called at Hammersmith yesterday about lady Ailesbury's tubs; one of them is nearly finished, but they will not both be completed these ten days. Shall they be sent to you by water? Good-night to her ladyship and you, and the infanta, whose progress in waxen statuary I hope advances so fast, that by next winter she may rival Rackstrow's old man. Do you know, that, though apprised of what I was going to see, it deceived me, and made such impression on my mind, that, thinking on it as I came home in my chariot, and seeing a woman steadfastly at work in a window in Pall Mall, it made me start to see her move. Adieu!

Yours ever

H. WALPOLE.

*The Hon. Horace Walpole to the Right Hon. W. Pitt.*

November 19, 1759.

Sir,

On my coming to town I did myself the honour of waiting on you and Lady Hester Pitt, and though I think myself extremely distinguished by your obliging note, I should be sorry to have given you the trouble of writing it, if it did not lend me a very pardonable opportunity of saying what I much wished to express, but thought myself too private a person, and of too little consequence, to take the liberty to say. In short, sir, I was eager to congratulate you on the lustre you have thrown on this country; I wished to thank you for the security you have fixed to me of enjoying the happiness I do enjoy. You have placed England in a situation in which it never saw itself—a task the more difficult, as you had not to improve but to recover. In a trifling book, written two or three years ago, I said (speaking of the name in the world the most venerable to me,) "sixteen unfortunate and inglorious years, since his removal, have already written his eulogium." It is but justice to you, sir, to add, that that period ended when your administration began. Sir, don't take this for flattery; there is nothing in your power to give that I would accept—nay, there is nothing I could envy, but what I believe you would scarce offer me—your glory. This may

sound very vain and insolent, but consider, sir, what a monarch is a man who wants nothing; consider how he looks down on one who is only the most illustrious man in Britain. But, sir, freedoms apart, insignificant as I am, probably it must be some satisfaction to a great mind like yours, to receive incense when you are sure there is no flattery blended with it; and what must any Englishman be that could give you a minute's satisfaction, and would hesitate?

Adieu, sir—I am unambitious, I am disinterested—but I am vain. You have by your notice, uncanvassed, unexpected, and at the period when you certainly could have the least temptation to stoop down to me, flattered me in the most agreeable manner. If there could arrive a moment, when you could be nobody, and I anybody, you cannot imagine how grateful I would be. In the mean time permit me to be, as I have been ever since I had the honour of knowing you, sir, your obedient humble servant.

HOR. WALPOLE.

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*The Hon. H. Walpole to the Rev. W. Cole.*

Arlington Street, Jan. 28, 1772.

MR. MASON has shown me the relics of poor Mr. Gray. I am sadly disappointed at finding them so very inconsiderable. He always persisted, when I in-

quired about his writing, that he had nothing by him. I own I doubted. I am grieved he was so very near exact. Since given to the world for twelve guineas! Gray valued them as "nothing," and Mason would not publish even a scrap. I speak of my own satisfaction. As to his genius, what he published during his life will establish his fame as long as our language lasts and there is a man of genius left. There is a silly fellow, I do not know who, that has published a volume of letters on the English nation, with characters of our modern authors. He has talked such nonsense of Mr. Gray, that I have no patience with the compliments he has paid me. He must have an excellent taste! and gives me a woful opinion of my own trifles, when he likes them, and cannot see the beauties of a poet that ought to be ranked in the first line. I am more humbled by any applause in the present age, than by hosts of such critics as Dr. Milles. Is not Garrick reckoned a tolerable author, though he has proved how little sense is necessary to form a great actor? His Cymon, his prologues, and epilogues, and forty such pieces of trash, are below mediocrity, and yet delight the mob in the boxes, as well as in the footman's gallery. I do not mention the things written in his praise, because he writes most of them himself. But you know any one popular merit can confer all merit. Two women talking of Wilkes, one said he squinted; the

other replied, "Well, if he does, it is not more than a man should squint." For my part, I can see extremely well how Garrick acts, without thinking him six feet high. It is said that Shakspeare was a bad actor. Why do not his divine plays make our wise judges conclude that he was a good one? They have not a proof of the contrary, as they have in Garrick's works—but what is it to you or me what he is? We may see him act with pleasure, and nothing obliges us to read his writings. Adieu, dear sir, yours most truly.

H. W.

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*Dr. Franklin to Mrs. Thomas, at Lisle.*

Paris, February 8, 1777.

You are too early, *hussy*, as well as too saucy, in calling me *rebel;* you should wait for the event, which will determine whether it is a *rebellion* or only a *revolution.* Here the ladies are more civil; they call us *les insurgens;* a character that usually pleases them: and methinks all other women who smart, or have smarted, under the tyranny of a bad husband, ought to be fixed in *revolution* principles, and act accordingly.

In my way to Canada, last spring, I saw dear Mrs. Barrow at New-York. Mr. Barrow had been from her two or three months, to keep Governor

Tryon and other tories company on board the Asia, one of the king's ships, which lay in the harbour; and in all that time, that naughty man had not ventured once on shore to see her. Our troops were then pouring into the town, and she was packing up to leave it, fearing, as she had a large house, they would incommode her by quartering officers in it. As she appeared in great perplexity, scarce knowing where to go, I persuaded her to stay; and I went to the general officers then commanding there, and recommended her to their protection, which they promised and performed. On my return from Canada, where I was a piece of a governor (and I think a very good one) for a fortnight, and might have been so till this time, if your wicked army, enemies to all good government, had not come and driven me out, I found her still in quiet possession of her house. I inquired how our people had behaved to her: she spoke in high terms of the respectful attention they had paid her, and the quiet and security they had procured her. I said I was glad of it; and that, if they had used her ill, I would have turned tory. Then, said she, (with that pleasing gaiety so natural to her,) *I wish they had.* For you must know she is a *toryess*, as well as you, and can as flippantly call *rebel.* I drank tea with her; we talked affectionately of you and our other friends the Wilkes's, of whom she had received no intelligence. What became of her since,

I have not heard. The street she lived in was some months after chiefly burnt down; but as the town was then, and ever since has been, in the possession of the king's troops, I have had no opportunity of knowing whether she suffered any loss in the conflagration. I hope she did not, as, if she did, I should wish I had not persuaded her to stay there. I am glad to learn from you that that unhappy, though deserving family, the W.'s, are getting into some business that may afford them subsistence. I pray that God will bless them, and that they may see happier days. Mr. Cheap's and Dr. H.'s good fortunes please me. Pray learn, if you have not already learnt, like me, to be pleased with other people's pleasures, and happy with their happiness, when none occur of your own; then, perhaps, you will not so soon be weary of the place you chance to be in, and so fond of rambling to get rid of your *ennui*. I fancy you have hit upon the right reason of your being weary of St. Omer's, *viz.* that you are out of temper, which is the effect of full living and idleness. A month in bridewell, beating hemp, upon bread and water, would give you health and spirits, and subsequent cheerfulness and contentment with every other situation. I prescribe that regimen for you, my dear, in pure good will, without a fee. And let me tell you, if you do not get into temper, neither Brussels nor Lisle will suit you. I know nothing of the price of living in either

of those places; but I am sure a single woman (as you are) might, with economy, upon two hundred pounds a year, maintain herself comfortably anywhere; and me into the bargain. Do not invite me in earnest, however, to come and live with you; for, being posted here, I ought not to comply, and I am not sure I should be able to refuse. Present my respects to Mrs. Payne and to Mrs. Heathcot; for, though I have not the honour of knowing them, yet, as you say they are friends to the American cause, I am sure they must be women of good understanding. I know you wish you could see me; but as you can't, I will describe myself to you. Figure me in your mind as jolly as formerly, and as strong and hearty, only a few years older; very plainly dressed, wearing my thin, gray, straight hair, that peeps out under my only *coiffure*, a fine fur cap, which comes down my forehead almost to my spectacles. Think how this must appear among the powdered heads of Paris! I wish every lady and gentleman in France would only be so obliging as to follow my fashion, comb their own heads as I do mine, dismiss their *friseurs*, and pay me one half the money they pay to them. You see the gentry might well afford this, and I could then enlist these *friseurs*, who are at least one hundred thousand; and with the money, I would maintain them, make a visit with them to England, and dress the heads of your ministers and privy coun-

sellors, which I conceive at present to be un peu *derangees*.

Adieu, madcap! and believe me ever your affectionate friend and humble servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

P. S.—Don't be proud of this long letter. A fit of the gout, which has confined me five days, and made me refuse to see company, has given me a little time to trifle; otherwise it would have been very short: visiters and business would have interrupted; and, perhaps, with Mrs. Barrow, you wish they had.

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*Dr. Franklin to the Rev. Wm. Nixon.*

Passy, Sept. 5, 1781

Rev. Sir,

I DULY received the letter you did me the honour of writing to me the 25th past, together with the valuable little book, of which you are the author. There can be no doubt but that a gentleman of your learning and abilities might make a very useful member of society in our new country, and meet with encouragement there, either as an instructor in one of our universities, or a clergyman of the Church of Ireland. But I am not empowered to engage any person to go over thither, and my abilities to assist the distressed are very limited. I

suppose you will soon be set at liberty in England by the cartel for the exchange of prisoners: in the mean time, if *five Louis d'ors* may be of present service to you, please to draw on me for that sum, and your bill shall be paid on sight. Some time or other, you may have an opportunity of assisting with an equal sum a stranger who has equal need of it. Do so. By that means you will discharge any obligation you may suppose yourself under to me. Enjoin him to do the same on occasion. By pursuing such a practice, much good may be done with little money. Let kind offices go round: mankind are all of a family. I have the honour to be, Rev. sir, &c.

B. FRANKLIN.

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*Dr. Franklin to Edmund Burke, Esq.*

Passy, October 15, 1781.

Sir,

I RECEIVED but a few days since your very friendly letter of August last, on the subject of General Burgoyne.

Since the foolish part of mankind will make wars from time to time with each other—not having sense enough otherwise to settle their differences—it certainly becomes the wiser part, who cannot prevent those wars, to alleviate as much as possible

the calamities attending them. Mr. Burke always stood high in my esteem; but his affectionate concern for his friend renders him still more amiable, and makes the honour he does me, of admitting me of the number, still more precious.

I do not think the Congress have any wish to persecute General Burgoyne. I never heard, till I received your letter, that they had recalled him: if they have made such a resolution, it must be, I suppose, a conditional one, to take place in case their offer of exchanging him for Mr. Laurens should not be accepted; a resolution intended merely to enforce that offer.

I have just received an authentic copy of the resolve containing that offer, and authorizing me to make it. As I have no communication with your ministers, I send it inclosed to you. If you can find any means of negotiating this business, I am sure the restoring another worthy man to his family and friends, will be an addition to your pleasure.

With great and invariable respect and affection, I am, sir, your most obedient and humble servant,

B. FRANKLIN.

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*Henry Kirke White to his Mother.*

Winteringham, 5th Feb., 1805.

Dear Mother,

THE spectacles for my father are, I hope, such

as will enable him to read with ease; *although they are not set in silver*. If they hurt him through stiffness, I think the better way will be to wear them with the *two end joints shut to*, and with a piece of ribbon to go round the back of the head, &c. The Romaine's Sermons, and the cheap tracts, are books which I thought might be useful. You may think I am not yet privileged to make presents, since they will in the end come out of your pocket; but I am not in want of cash at present, and have reason to believe, from my own calculations, I shall not have occasion to call upon you for what I know you can so ill spare. I was quite vexed afterwards that I did not send you all the volumes of the Cheap Repository, as the others, which are the *general tracts*, and such as are more entertaining, would have been well adapted to your library. When I next go to Hull, I purpose buying the remaining volumes, and when I next have occasion to send a parcel, you will receive them. The volume you have now got contains all the *Sunday* reading tracts, and on that account I send it separately. As I have many things to remind me of my sister Smith, I thought (though we neither of us need such mementos) that she would not be averse to receive the sermons of the great and good, though in some respects singular, Romaine, at my hands, as what old fashioned people would call *a token of a brother's*

*love*, but what in more courtly phrase is denominated a *memento of affection*.

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*Henry Kirke White to Mr. K. Swann.*

Winteringham, 16th March, 1805.

Dear Kirke,

* * * * * * * * *

I WAS affected by the death of young B——. He once called upon me, with Mr. H——, when I was very ill, and on that occasion Mr. H—— said to us both, "*Young men, I would have you both pack off to Lisbon, for you won't last long if you stay here.*" Mr. H—— was then about to set out for Hamburgh: and he told me afterwards that he never expected to see me again, for that he thought I was more desperately gone in consumption than B——. Yet you see how the good providence of God has spared me, and I am yet living, as I trust to serve him with all my strength. Had I died then, I should have perished for ever; but I have now hope, through the Lord Jesus, that I shall see the day of death with joy, and possibly be the means of rescuing others from a similar situation. I certainly thought of the ministry at first with improper motives, and my views of Christianity were for a long time very obscure, but I have, I trust, gradually been growing out of

darkness into light, and I feel a well-grounded hope, that God has sanctified my heart for great and valuable purposes. Wo be unto me if I frustrate his designs!

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*Henry Kirke White to Mr. K. Swann.*

Winteringham, April 6th, 1805.

My dear Kirke,

* * * * * * * *

YOUR complaint of the lukewarmness of your affections towards spiritual things, is a very common one with Christians. We all feel it; and if it be attended with an earnest desire to acquit ourselves in this respect, and to recover our wonted fervour, it is a complaint indicative of our faithfulness. In cases of Christian experience, I submit my own opinion to any body's, and have too serious a distrust of it myself, to offer it as a rule or maxim of unquestionable authority; but I have found, and think that the best remedy against lukewarmness, is an obstinate persisting in prayer, until our affections be moved: and a regular habit of going to religious duties with a prepared and meek heart, thinking more of obtaining communion with God, than of spending so many minutes in seeking it. Thus, when we pray, we must not kneel down with

the idea that we are to spend so many minutes in supplication, and after the usual time has elapsed, go about our regular business; we must remind ourselves that we have *an object* in prayer, and that until that object be attained, that is, until we are satisfied that our Father hears us, we are not to conceive that our duty is performed, although we may be in the posture of prayer for an hour.

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*Henry Kirke White to his Mother.*

Winteringham, 12th April, 1805.

My dear Mother,

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I HAVE constructed a planetarium, or *orrery*, of a very simple kind, which cannot fail to give even children an idea of the order and course of the heavenly bodies. I shall write a few plain and simple lectures upon it, with lessons to be got off by heart by the children, so that you will be able, without any difficulty, to teach them the rudiments of astronomy. The machine, simple as it may seem, is such that you cannot fail to understand the planetary system by it; and were it not that I cannot afford the additional expense, I could make it much more complete and interesting. You must not expect any thing striking in the instrument it-

self, as it only consists of an index plate, with rods and balls.—It will explain the situation of the planets, their courses, the motion of the earth and moon, the causes of the *seasons*, the different lengths of day and night, the reason of eclipses, transits, &c. When you have seen it, and read the explanatory lectures, you will be able to judge of its plainness; and if you find you understand it, you may teach geography scholars its use. Should it fail in other points of view, it will be useful to Maria and Catharine.

* * * * * * * *

Remember to keep up the plan of family worship on Sundays with strictness, until I come, and it will probably pave the way for still further improvements, which I may perhaps have an opportunity of making while I stay with you. Let Maria and Catharine be more particularly taught to regard Sunday as a day set apart from all worldly occupations.—Let them have every thing prepared for the Sunday on the preceding day; and be carefully warned, on that day in particular, to avoid paying too great an attention to dress. I know how important habits like these will be to their future happiness even in this world, and I, therefore, press this with earnestness.

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*Hon. Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann.*

Arlington Street, Jan. 30, 1770.

I DO not know how the year will end, but, to be sure, it begins with as many events as ever happened to any one of its predecessors. The Duke of Grafton has resigned: in a very extraordinary moment indeed; in the midst of his own measures, in the midst of a session, and undefeated. It is true, his last victory was far from being so complete as the former; and hence, as Horatio says,* *have the talkers of this populous city* taken occasion to impute this sudden retreat to as sudden a panic. You must know, that last Friday, upon a question on that endless topic, the Middlesex election, the Court had a majority, at past three in the morning, of only four and forty. The expulsion of the Chancellor, the resignation of Lord Granby, and of so many others, and much mal-adroitness in stating the question on the Court-side, easily accounted for that diminution in the numbers; and yet, though I believe that that defalcation determined this step, I know it was not a new thought. Whenever the current did not run smooth, his Grace's first thought has been to resign. When Mr. Yorke refused to accept, the fit returned violently: when he did accept, the wind changed; and I believe I gave you an obscure hint of the extreme importance of that

* Not Horatio, but the Fair Penitent.—*Ed.*

acceptance. Mr. Yorke's precipitate death unhinged all again; the impossibility of finding another Chancellor fixed the wind in the resigning corner, and the slender majority overset the vessel quite. In short, it is over. A very bad temper, no conduct, and obstinacy always ill-placed, have put an end to his Grace's administration.

What will follow is impossible to say. In the meantime Lord North is first Minister. He is much more able, more active, more assiduous, more resolute, and more fitted to deal with mankind. But whether the apparent, nay, glaring timidity of the Duke may not have spread too general an alarm, is more than probable; and there is but the interval of to-day to take any measures, as the question of Friday must be reported to the House to-morrow; whence, at least, the lookers-out may absent themselves till the trump is turned up. The fear of a dissolution of Parliament may keep a large number together, and the fluctuation of probability between Lord North, Lord Chatham, and Lord Rockingham, may occasion a confusion of which the Government may profit. The King, in the meantime, is much to be pitied; abandoned where he had most confidence, and attacked on every other side. I write to-day because the post goes out, and I choose to give you the earliest intelligence of such a material event; but the letter I shall certainly send you on Friday, will tread upon a little firmer ground.

I have received an odd indirect overture myself, not from Administration nor Opposition, but from France. M. de Choiseul has a great desire that I should be ambassador at that Court. As no man upon earth is less a Frenchman, as you know, than I am, I did not at all taste the proposal, nay, not his making it. I sent him word in plain terms that he could not have desired a person that would suit him less; that whatever private connexions or friendships I have in France, however grateful I may be for the kindness I have met with there, yet, the moment I should be Ambassador, he would find me more haughty and inflexible than all the English put together; and that though I wish for peace between the two countries, I should be much more likely to embroil them than preserve union, for that nothing upon earth could make me depart from the smallest punctilio, in which the honour of my nation should be concerned. I do not think he will desire me to be sent thither.

As this letter is but a prologue to the ensuing scenes, you will excuse my making it short. You may depend on my frequency till things are settled into system. Adieu!

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*Hon. Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann.*

Arlington Street, Friday, Feb. 2, 1770

WEDNESDAY, the very critical day is over, and

the Administration stands. The Opposition flattered themselves with victory, and the warmest friends of the Court expected little better than a drawn battle, yet the majority for the latter was forty. Few enough in conscience for triumph, but sufficient to make a stand with. Lord North pleased all that could bring themselves to be pleased: he not only spoke with firmness and dignity, but with good-humour; and fairly got the better of Colonel Barré, who attacked him with rudeness and brutality. Lord North has very good parts, quickness, great knowledge, and, what is much wanted, activity. The impracticability of the Duke of Grafton's temper had contributed more to the present crisis than all the labours of all the factions. His friends were more discontented with him than even his enemies were. It was impossible to choose a more distressful moment than he selected for quitting; and had the scale turned on Wednesday, I do not know where we should have been. The House of Commons contradicting itself, a reversal of the Middlesex election, a dissolution of Parliament, or the King driven to refuse it in the face of a majority! I protest I think some fatal event must have happened. Let the Constitution but be saved, the factions may squabble as they please. They are engaged at this moment at the House of Lords, but that is a very bloodless scene: my Lord Chat-

ham will make as little impression there as in his expeditions to the coast of France.

The people are perfectly quiet, and seem to have delegated all their anger to their representatives—*a proof that their representatives had instructed their constituents to be angry.* Wilkes is never mentioned, but as his name occurs in the debates on the Middlesex election. Yet I am far from thinking this Administration solidly seated. Any violence, or new provocation, may dislodge it at once. When they could reduce a majority of a hundred and sixteen to forty, in three weeks, their hold seems to be very slippery.

In the meantime, what a figure do we make in Europe! Who can connect with us? Nobody will. Nay, who can treat with us? Is every secret of every court to pass through the hands of every cabal in England? This goes to my heart, who, you know, wish to dictate to all the world, and to sit, a private citizen, in the Capitol, with more haughtiness than an Asiatic monarch. All public ambition is lost in personal. It would soothe my pride a thousand times more to be great *by* my country than *in* it. It would flatter me more to talk on foot to Paris, and be reverenced as an Englishman, than to go thither Ambassador, with the Garter. This might have been! but it is past; and what signifies all the rest? I was born with Roman insolence, and live *in fæce Romuli!*

The vivacity of this last month has so multiplied my letters, that their number must excuse the shortness of them.

If the present system settles into any stability, I shal. relapse into my *monthly family-duty*. Should fresh changes happen, you are sure of being advertised. That strange event, Mr. Yorke's death, is already history, that is, forgotten. We give few things time to grow stale.

Where is the Russian fleet? The ships drop in, one by one, like schoolboys after their holidays; and none of them, I doubt, perfect in their lesson.

Our schoolboys, at least those just come from school, are much more expeditious.

The gaming at Almack's, which has taken the *pas* of White's, is worthy the decline of our Empire, or Commonwealth, which you please. The young men of the age lose five, ten, fifteen thousand pounds in an evening there. Lord Staverdale,* not one-and-twenty, lost eleven thousand there, last Tuesday, but recovered it by one great hand at hazard: he swore a great oath,—"Now, if I had been playing *deep*, I might have won millions." His cousin, Charles Fox shines equally there and in the House of Commons. He was twenty-one yesterday se'nnight; and is already one of our best speakers. Yesterday he was made a Lord

* Eldest son of Stephen Fox, first Earl of Ilchester.

of the Admiralty. We are not a great age, but surely we are tending to some great revolution. Adieu!

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*Hon. Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann.*

Arlington Street, March 23, 1770.

OUR storms rather loiter than disperse; but they have deceived me so often, that if I thought them blown over, I should be cautious of saying so. Lord North's temper and prudence has prevailed over much rash council; and will, I hope, at last, defeat the madness of both sides. There has not been much heat in the House of Commons. The Rockingham faction has left Lord Chatham's aground, and would not defend the indecency of the Remonstrance. This alarmed my lord Mayor, and though he affected to keep up his spirit, it sunk visibly. The House, you may be sure, resented the insult offered to them, and the majorities have been very great; yet has there been no personal punishment or censure, no dubbing of martyrs. The country gentlemen have even declared, that they will support the Court in no violence. This is very happy, at a time when the first overt act of violence on either side may entail long bloodshed upon us. The disavowal has given Lord Chatham a real or political fit of the gout; and he neither appeared

yesterday in the House of Lords, when an address to the King against the Remonstrance was voted, nor at a sumptuous dinner and ball, given to the Opposition by the Lord Mayor. They passed in solemn procession, escorted by the Liverymen of London on horseback, from the Thatched-House Tavern, near St. James's, to the Mansion House, amidst thousands of people. At night, a small drunken mob, consisting, I believe, chiefly of glaziers and tallow-chandlers, obliged some houses at Charing Cross to put out some lights, and broke some windows, but dispersed of themselves in a quarter of an hour. These follies, however, exasperate; and both sides, I fear, grow too angry not to be glad to be enraged at any trifle: the chiefs of both not considering that, like other projectors, the first inventors of mischief never reap the profit. Laud, Strafford, Hampden, Pym, all perished before their manufactures were crowned with success. Cromwell and Clarendon, who came into their shops, got all the business.

Our weather is as perverse as the rest of the season. We have had a hard frost above this fortnight, which they say has killed all the peas and beans; but so they say every year, and of the fruit too. I suppose, if so much were not destroyed, we should be devoured by peas, beans, and apricots.

Lord Beauchamp has desired I would trouble you with a commission; it is to send him about six

dozen of wine of Aleatico, and four dozen of the white Verdea. I knew you would undertake it with pleasure; you must draw upon me for the money, and I will pay your brother.

You know I have always some favourite, some successor of Patapan.* The present is a tanned black spaniel, called Rosette. She saved my life last Saturday night, so I am sure you will love her too. I was undressing for bed. She barked and was so restless that there was no quieting her. I fancied there was somebody under the bed, but there was not. As she looked at the chimney, which roared much, I thought it was the wind, yet wondered, as she had heard it so often. At last, not being able to quiet her, I looked to see what she barked at, and perceived sparks of fire falling from the chimney, and on searching farther perceived it in flames. It had not gone far, and we easily extinguished it. I wish I had as much power over the nation's chimney. Adieu!

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*Hon. Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann.*

Arlington Street, June 15, 1770

I HAVE no public event to tell you, though I write again sooner than I purposed. The journey of the

* A favourite dog Mr. Walpole brought from Rome.

Princess Dowager to Germany is indeed an extraordinary circumstance, but besides its being a week old, as I do not know the motives, I have nothing to say upon it. It is much canvassed and sifted, and yet perhaps she was only in search of a little repose from the torrents of abuse that have been poured upon her for some years. Yesterday they publicly sung about the streets a ballad, the burden of which was, *the cow has left her calf*. With all this we are grown very quiet, and Lord North's behaviour is so sensible and moderate that he offends no body.

Our family has lost a branch, but I cannot call it a misfortune. Lord Cholmondeley* died last Saturday. He was seventy, and had a constitution to have carried him to a hundred, if he had not destroyed it by an intemperance, especially in drinking, that would have killed any body else in half the time. As it was, he had outlived by fifteen years all his set, who have reeled into the ferry-boat so long before him. His grandson seems good and amiable, and though he comes into but a small fortune for an earl, five-and-twenty hundred a-year, his uncle, the general, may re-establish him upon a great footing—but it will not be in his life, and the general does not sail after his brother on a sea of claret.

* George, third Earl of Cholmondeley, married Mary, daughter of Sir Robert Walpole.

You have heard details, to be sure, of the horrible catastrophe at the fire-works at Paris.* Francèes, the French minister, told me, the other night, that the number of the killed was so great that they now try to stifle it; my letters say between five and six hundred! I think there were not fewer than ten coach-horses trodden to death. The mob had poured down from the *Etoile* by thousands and ten thousands to see the illuminations, and did not know the havoc they were occasioning. The impulse drove great numbers into the Seine, and those met with the most favourable deaths.

This is a slight summer letter, but you will not be sorry it is so short, when the dearth of events is the cause. Last year I did not know but we might have a battle of Edghill by this time. At present, my Lord Chatham could as soon raise money as raise the people; and Wilkes will not much longer have more power of doing either. If you were not busy in burning Constantinople, you could not have a better opportunity for taking a trip to England. Have you never a wish this way? Think what satisfaction it would be to me?—but I never advise; nor let my own inclinations judge for my friends. I had rather suffer their absence, than to have to

* Those on the marriage of the Dauphin, afterwards the unfortunate Louis XVI. See all the memoirs of the times for the horrible details.

reproach myself with having given them bad counsel. I, therefore, say no more on what would make me so happy. Adieu!

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*Hon. Horace Walpole to Sir Horace Mann.*

Arlington Street, Nov. 26, 1770.

I THIS minute received your letter of October 27th, and do not wonder you are impatient to hear what the Spanish courier says. He arrived this day sevennight; and, had his message been definite, or published, you should have heard immediately; but, whatever he brought, it was left to the Spanish Ambassador to traffic with, and make the best market he could of it. At first, the Stocks, who are our most knowing politicians, opined that the answer was pacific, and they held their heads very high. On Saturday last, their hearts sunk into their breeches; all officers were ordered to their posts. I am just come from the King's levee, where Lord Howe kissed hands for being appointed Commander in the Mediterranean. He is no trifler. The army is to be augmented. Still I will hope we shall remain in peace, for, whether we beat or are beaten, we always contrive to make a shameful treaty. At home, the Ministers are victorious Motions were made in both Houses last Thursday for the papers relating to Falkland's Is-

land, which were refused in the Lords by 61 to 25; in the Commons, by 225 to 101. Lord Chatham, who is Almanzor himself, and kicks and cuffs friend and enemy, abused the Ministers, Opposition, Wilkes, and the City. Lord Temple did not appear, nor any of Grenville's friends. Wilkes has his own civil wars in his own party, and by the consequence of fractions in small numbers, both he and his rival-mates are become ridiculous. This is the present state at home, We have neither Chancellor nor Keeper yet: Bathurst is now talked of.

I am much obliged to you for the detail of Le Fevre's medicine; but I am perfectly recovered without it, and strong in opinion against it. I am persuaded that he is a quack, and his nostrum dangerous. By quack I mean impostor, not in opposition to, but in common with physicians. He has been here and carried off five thousand pounds, at a hundred pounds per patient.* You must know, I do not believe the gout to be curable. In the next place, I am sure he cannot give any proof of its being a humour, and if it is, it is not a single fund of humours, but probably a mass thrown off at periods by the constitution. It is doubtful whether wind is not the essence of gout; it certainly has much to do with it. There must have been longer experience

* His medicine proved extremely noxious.

of this new remedy's effects before I would try it upon myself. I have known many nostrums stop every cranny into which the gout is used to crowd itself, and the consequence has always been an explosion. I am not desperate, nor like the adage, *kill or cure*. But my great objection of all is, that the medicine begins with *giving* the gout. Thank it; I have not the disorder above once in two years, and it would be bad economy to bring on what I may never live to have. In short, the bootikins, water, and lemonade, have restored me so completely, that I have not the smallest symptom left of lameness or weakness; and Mr. Chute, who has a much deeper mine of gout in his frame than I have, finds his fits exceedingly diminished by the constant use of the bootikins, and walks better than he did ten years ago.

Tuesday.

I must send away my letter without being able to tell you whether it is war or peace. You shall hear again as soon as either is determined. Adieu.

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